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Security Council

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The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions and the statements of its President concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), especially its resolutions 2198 (2015), 2147 (2014), 2136 (2014), 2098 (2013), 2078 (2012), 2076 (2012) and 2053 (2012),

Reaffirming the basic principles of peacekeeping, including consent of the parties, impartiality, and non-use of force, except in self-defence and defence of the mandate, and *recognizing* that the mandate of each peace-keeping mission is specific to the need and situation of the country concerned,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the DRC as well as all States in the region and *emphasizing* the need to respect fully the principles of non-interference, good-neighbourliness and regional cooperation,

Emphasizing that those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights must be held accountable and that the Government of the DRC bears the primary responsibility to protect civilians within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction, including protection from crimes against humanity and war crimes,

Noting that eastern DRC has continued to suffer from recurring cycles of conflict and persistent violence by armed groups, both Congolese and foreign, and *recalling* the strategic importance of the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework for the DRC and the Region, and *reiterating* its call to all signatories to fulfil promptly, fully and in good faith their respective commitments under this agreement in order to address the root causes of conflict and put an end to recurring cycles of violence, and promote lasting regional development,

Encouraging the continuation of efforts by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and the African Union (AU) to restore peace and security in eastern DRC, *encouraging* the government of the DRC to ensure continuous close cooperation with these and other international parties, and *recognizing* the efforts of the Government of the DRC aiming at the achievement of peace and national development,

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Reiterating its deep concern regarding the security and humanitarian crisis in eastern DRC due to ongoing destabilizing activities of foreign and domestic armed groups, and *stressing* the importance of neutralizing the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), the National Liberation Forces (FNL), and all other armed groups in the DRC, and *recognizing* the efforts of the FARDC against armed groups, especially the ADF,

Recalling its Presidential statement of 8 January 2015 (S/PRST/2015/1) and *reiterating* that the swift neutralization of the FDLR is a top priority in bringing stability to and protecting civilians of the DRC and the Great Lakes region, *noting with deep concern* repeated reports of collaboration between elements of the Congolese Armed Forces (FARDC) and elements of the FDLR at a local level and unfettered regional travel by FDLR, *recalling* that the FDLR is a group under UN sanctions whose leaders and members include perpetrators of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, during which Hutu and others who opposed the genocide were also killed, and have continued to promote and commit ethnically-based and other killings in Rwanda and the DRC,

Remaining greatly concerned by the humanitarian situation that continues to severely affect the civilian population, in particular in eastern DRC, *expressing deep concern* regarding the very high number of internally displaced persons in the DRC, at more than 2,7 million, and the over 490,000 refugees from eastern DRC caused by the various Congolese and foreign armed groups active in the region, and *calling upon* the DRC and all States in the region to work towards the peaceful environment conducive to the realization of durable solutions for refugees and internally displaced persons, including their eventual voluntary return and reintegration in the DRC, with the support, as appropriate, of the UN country team, *supporting* UNHCR's current efforts to complete biometric registration of the Rwandese refugee population in the DRC to help facilitate the return of these refugees to Rwanda, *and calling upon* all parties in the conflict to respect the impartiality, independence and neutrality of humanitarian actors,

Remaining deeply concerned by the persistent high levels of violence and violations and abuses of human rights and international law, *condemning* in particular those involving the targeted attacks against civilians, widespread sexual and gender-based violence, systematic recruitment and use of children by certain parties to the conflict, the displacement of significant numbers of civilians, extrajudicial executions and arbitrary arrests, *recognizing* their deleterious effect on the stabilization, reconstruction and development efforts in the DRC, and *calling* for all those responsible for all such violations and abuses to be swiftly apprehended, brought to justice and held accountable,

Recalling all its relevant resolutions on women, peace and security, on children and armed conflicts, and on the protection of civilians in armed conflicts, also *recalling* the conclusions on Children and Armed conflicts in the DRC (S/AC.51/2014/3) adopted on 18 September 2014 by the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflicts pertaining to the parties in armed conflicts of the DRC,

Welcoming the efforts of MONUSCO and international partners in delivering training in human rights, international humanitarian law, gender mainstreaming, child protection and protection from sexual and gender-based violence for

Congolese security institutions and underlining its importance, and *welcoming* the establishment of the Women's Platform for the PSC Framework in an effort to ensure the full participation of women in the PSC Framework peace process,

Noting the ongoing efforts made by the Government of the DRC to combat sexual violence in conflict including through its National Strategy and the commitments outlined in the Joint Communique between the Government of the DRC and the United Nations on the Fight Against Sexual Violence in Conflict adopted in Kinshasa on 30 March 2013, and *strongly encouraging* the Government of DRC to increase its efforts in this regard,

Acknowledging the adoption of the Framework of Cooperation between the United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the African Union Commission Concerning the Prevention and Response to Conflict-related Sexual Violence in Africa adopted in Addis Ababa on 31 January 2014,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General S/2014/181 which includes a list of parties responsible for patterns of rape and other forms of sexual violence in situations of armed conflict, being on the Security Council agenda,

Noting with deep concern reports and allegations indicating the persistence of serious human rights and international humanitarian law violations committed by some members of the FARDC, the Republican Guard and Congolese National Police (PNC) including during the protests in Kinshasa, Goma and Bukavu in January 2015, *appealing* for calm, *urging* all parties to refrain from violence, and *emphasizing* that the Government of the DRC response must respect human rights and comply with the principle of proportionality in the use of force,

Recalling the importance of fighting against impunity within all ranks of the FARDC and PNC, *commending* the DRC authorities for recent prosecutions and condemnations of FARDC officers for crimes against humanity and war crimes, and *stressing the need* for the Government of the DRC to continue to ensure the increased professionalism of its security forces,

Stressing the need for cooperation with the International Criminal Court (ICC) by the Government of the DRC, *welcoming* the commitment made by the Government of the DRC to hold accountable those responsible for serious crimes, in particular war crimes and crimes against humanity, in the country, and *stressing* the importance of actively seeking to hold accountable those responsible for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity in the country,

Reaffirming that the successful protection of civilians is critical to the fulfilment of MONUSCO's mandate and the delivery of an improved security environment, also *stressing* the importance of peaceful means and progress on key reforms to promote the protection of civilians,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on the strategic review of MONUSCO and the wider UN presence (S/2014/957) submitted pursuant to paragraph 39 of its resolution 2147 (2014), and *further welcoming* its recommendations on MONUSCO's future objectives, activities, exit strategy and effective deployment of resources, bearing in mind the need to continue to increase the effectiveness of the mission, and respond to changing conditions on the ground,

Taking note of the views expressed by the Government of the DRC regarding its appreciation of the strategic review of MONUSCO, in particular on the objectives and the reconfiguration of the Mission,

Reaffirming its strong support to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) and MONUSCO in the implementation of their mandate, and *strongly encouraging* the continuation of their efforts,

Noting that it is important that all MONUSCO contingents, including the contingents of the Intervention Brigade, are properly prepared, effectively equipped and supported to be able to sustain their commitment to carry out their respective tasks,

Reiterating its call on all parties to cooperate fully with MONUSCO and to remain committed to the full and objective implementation of the Mission's mandate, *reiterating* its condemnation of any and all attacks against peacekeepers, and *emphasizing* that those responsible for such attacks must be held accountable,

Reiterating its call upon the Secretary-General to take all measures deemed necessary to strengthen UN field security arrangements and improve the safety and security of all military contingents, police officers, military observers, and especially unarmed observers,

Underlining the importance of MONUSCO deterring any threats to the implementation of its mandate,

Recognizing the contribution of MONUSCO to a comprehensive strategy for durable peace and security, *noting* the need for MONUSCO to strengthen support to the government of the DRC to enable it to address security challenges and human rights concerns, and extend state authority of the government of DRC as expressed in paragraph 5 of the PSC Framework, *noting with appreciation* the contribution that MONUSCO makes to early peacebuilding, and *emphasizing* that MONUSCO's activities should be conducted in a manner so as to facilitate post-conflict peacebuilding, prevention of relapse into armed conflict and progress towards sustainable peace and development,

Stressing the crucial importance of the upcoming electoral cycle for stabilization and consolidation of constitutional democracy in the DRC, *expressing concern* with restrictions of the political space in the DRC, in particular recent arrests of political opposition members and suspension of Internet and social media, and *recalling* the need for an open, inclusive and peaceful political dialogue between all stakeholders, while ensuring the protection of fundamental freedoms and human rights, paving the way for peaceful, credible, inclusive, transparent and timely elections in the DRC, particularly presidential and legislative elections by November 2016, in accordance with the Constitution and the electoral calendar, while respecting the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance,

Determining that the situation in the DRC continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

MONUSCO's mandate and strategic review

1. *Decides* to extend until 31 March 2016 the mandate of MONUSCO in the DRC, including, on an exceptional basis and without creating a precedent or any prejudice to the agreed principles of peacekeeping, its Intervention Brigade;

2. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the strategic review of MONUSCO and the wider UN presence (S/2014/957) submitted pursuant to paragraph 39 of its resolution 2147 (2014), *fully endorses* its recommendations, including on the transformation of the MONUSCO force to become more efficient and effective in implementing its mandate, and *calls* for their effective and rapid implementation and *reiterates* that multi-dimensional peacekeeping requires a comprehensive approach, and *requests* MONUSCO's military, police and civilian components to work together in an integrated way;

3. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Secretary General to reduce the MONUSCO force by 2,000 troops, while maintaining an authorized troop ceiling of 19,815 military personnel, 760 military observers and staff officers, 391 police personnel, and 1050 personnel of formed police units;

4. *Expresses* its intention to make this troop reduction permanent, through a revised troop ceiling, consistent with the report of the Secretary-General on the strategic review of MONUSCO, once significant progress has been achieved regarding the priorities of MONUSCO's mandate, consistent with paragraph 6 below, including the fight against the FDLR;

5. *Requests* MONUSCO to continue to maximise Force interoperability, flexibility and effectiveness in the implementation of the entirety of MONUSCO's mandate, including by deploying rapidly deployable units and continuing to modernise the Force, consistent with the recommendations of the strategic review, bearing in mind the safety and security of all military contingents, police officers, military observers, and especially unarmed observers;

6. *Decides* that future reconfigurations of MONUSCO and its mandate should be determined in consultation with the Government of the DRC on the basis of the evolution of the situation on the ground and, in the context of implementation by the Government of the DRC and all other signatories of the PSC Framework, progress towards the following objectives, in line with the three main priorities of protection of civilians, stabilization, and support to the implementation of the PSC framework, including national reforms, as set out in the Mission concept;

(a) Reduction of the threat posed by Congolese and foreign armed groups, in particular the FDLR, violence against civilians, including sexual and gender-based violence and violence against children to a level that can be effectively managed by the Congolese justice and security institutions;

(b) Stabilization through the establishment of functional, professional, and accountable state institutions, including security and judicial institutions, in conflict-affected areas, and through strengthened democratic practices that reduces the risk of instability, including adequate political space, promotion and protection of human rights and a credible electoral process;

7. *Stresses* the need for coordination and cooperation between the Government of the DRC and other national authorities, UN entities and development

actors to stabilize, improve security situation and assist in restoration of State authority;

Protection of civilians

8. *Reaffirms* that the protection of civilians must be given priority in decisions about the use of available capacity and resources;

9. *Authorizes* MONUSCO, in pursuit of the objectives described in paragraph 6 above, to take all necessary measures to perform the following tasks, bearing in mind that these are mutually reinforcing tasks;

(a) Ensure, within its area of operations, effective protection of civilians under threat of physical violence, including by deterring, preventing and stopping armed groups from inflicting violence on the populations, paying particular attention to civilians gathered in displaced and refugee camps, humanitarian personnel and human rights defenders, in the context of violence emerging from any of the parties engaged in the conflict, and mitigating the risk to civilians before, during and after any military operation;

(b) Ensure the protection of United Nations personnel, facilities, installations and equipment and the security and freedom of movement of United Nations and associated personnel;

(c) Work with the Government of the DRC to identify threats to civilians and implement existing prevention and response plans and strengthen civil-military cooperation, including joint-planning, to ensure the protection of civilians from abuses and violations of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, including all forms of sexual and gender-based violence and violations and abuses committed against children and persons with disabilities, and *requests* MONUSCO to ensure that child protection and gender concerns are integrated into all operations and strategic aspects of MONUSCO's work and accelerate the coordinated implementation of monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements on conflict-related sexual violence and the swift deployment of Women Protection Advisers as called for in resolution 1960 (2010) and 2106 (2013), in order to seek commitments on the prevention and response to conflict-related sexual violence;

(d) Support and work with the authorities of the DRC to arrest and bring to justice those allegedly responsible for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity and violations of international humanitarian law and violations or abuses of human rights in the country, including leaders of armed groups, including through cooperation with States of the region and the ICC;

(e) *Neutralizing armed groups through the intervention brigade*

In support of the authorities of the DRC, on the basis of information collection and analysis, and taking full account of the need to protect civilians and mitigate risk before, during and after any military operation, carry out targeted offensive operations through the Intervention Brigade in cooperation with the whole of MONUSCO, either unilaterally or jointly with the FARDC, in a robust, highly mobile and versatile manner and in strict compliance with international law, including international humanitarian law, and in accordance with the standing operating procedures applicable to persons who are captured or who surrender, and with the human rights due diligence policy on UN-support to non-UN forces

(HRDDP), prevent the expansion of all armed groups, neutralize these groups, and disarm them in order to contribute to the objective of reducing the threat posed by armed groups to state authority and civilian security in eastern DRC and to make space for stabilization activities;

(f) *Arms embargo*

Monitor the implementation of the arms embargo as described in paragraph 1 of resolution 2198 (2015) in cooperation with the Group of Experts established by resolution 1533 (2004), and in particular observe and report on flows of military personnel, arms or related materiel across the eastern border of the DRC, including by using, as specified in the letter of the Council dated 22 January 2015 (S/2015/44), surveillance capabilities provided by unmanned aerial systems, seize, collect, record and dispose of arms or related materiel brought into the DRC in violation of the measures imposed by paragraph 1 of resolution 2198 (2015), and share relevant information with the Group of Experts;

Gender issues, child protection, interaction with civilian population

10. *Requests* MONUSCO to take fully into account gender considerations as a crosscutting issue throughout its mandate and to assist the Government of the DRC in ensuring the participation, involvement and representation of women at all levels, including in stabilisation activities, security sector reform (SSR) and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) processes, as well as in the national political dialogue and electoral processes, through, inter alia, the provision of gender advisers, and *further requests* enhanced reporting by MONUSCO to the Council on this issue;

11. *Requests* MONUSCO to take fully into account child protection as a cross-cutting issue throughout its mandate and to assist the Government of the DRC in ensuring that the protection of children's rights is taken into account, inter alia, in DDR processes and in SSR as well as during interventions leading to the separation of children from the FARDC and armed groups in order to end and prevent violations and abuses against children, including those involving detention, including temporary, of children by the FARDC;

12. *Encourages* MONUSCO to enhance its interaction with the civilian population to raise awareness and understanding about its mandate and activities through a comprehensive public outreach programme, to identify potential threats against the civilian population and to collect reliable information on violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights perpetrated against civilians;

Stabilization

13. *Authorizes* MONUSCO, in support of the Congolese authorities and their efforts to stabilize eastern DRC, to contribute to the following tasks, including through the SRSG's good offices:

(a) Provide good offices, advice and support to the Government of DRC to ensure actions against armed groups are supported by civilian and police components as part of consolidated planning which provides a comprehensive response to area-based stabilization efforts;

(b) Provide good offices, advice and support to the Government of the DRC, in close cooperation with other international partners, in the implementation of the revised International Security and Stabilization Support Strategy (ISSSS) and related Provincial Stabilization Plans;

(c) Provide good offices, advice and support to the Government of the DRC, in close cooperation with other international partners, in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of Congolese combatants not suspected of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity or abuses of human rights, into a peaceful civilian life in line with a community-based approach that is coordinated under the framework of the ISSSS, while paying specific attention to the needs of children formerly associated with armed forces and groups;

(d) Provide support to the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration (DDRRR) process to return and reintegrate foreign combatants not suspected of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity or abuses of human rights and their dependents to a peaceful civilian life in their country of origin, or a receptive third country while paying specific attention to the needs of children formerly associated with armed forces and groups;

(e) Provide good offices, advice and support to the Government of the DRC to promote human rights and political rights and to fight impunity, including through the implementation of the Government's "zero tolerance policy" with respect to discipline and human rights and international humanitarian law violations, committed by elements of the security sector;

(f) Continue to collaborate with the Government of the DRC in the swift and vigorous implementation of the action plan to prevent and end the recruitment and use of children and sexual violence against children by the FARDC, and continue dialogue with all listed parties to obtain further commitments and work towards the development and implementation of action plans to prevent and end violations and abuses against children;

Support to national reconciliation processes

14. *Reiterates* the importance of implementing the PSC Framework to the achievement of long term stability of eastern DRC and the region, *urges* all signatory States of the PSC Framework to continue to fully and promptly implement their commitments in good faith, including not harbouring war criminals, and *calls on* the Government of DRC, which has the primary responsibility for safeguarding the DRC's sovereignty and territorial integrity, to make further meaningful progress in implementing its commitments under the PSC Framework;

15. *Authorizes* MONUSCO, in support of the Congolese authorities and their efforts to deliver the reforms called by the PSC Framework and stabilisation in eastern DRC, to contribute to the following tasks, in coordination with the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and other actors, including through the SRSG's good offices:

(a) Promote peace consolidation and inclusive and transparent political dialogue among all Congolese stakeholders with a view to furthering reconciliation and democratization, while ensuring the protection of fundamental freedoms and human rights, paving the way for the holding of elections, consistent with the provisions of paragraph 19 below;

(b) Monitor, report and follow-up on human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law, including in the context of elections, and support the UN system in-country to ensure that any support provided by the United Nations shall be consistent with international humanitarian law and human rights law and refugee law as applicable;

(c) Provide good offices, advice and support to the Government of the DRC to encourage and accelerate national ownership of security sector reform by the Government of the DRC, including through developing a national strategy for the establishment of effective and accountable security institutions, as well as the development of a clear and comprehensive SSR implementation roadmap including benchmarks and timelines, and play a leading role in coordinating the support for SSR provided by international and bilateral partners and the UN system;

(d) Provide good offices, advice and support to the Government of the DRC, in compliance with the HRDDP, for army reform that would enhance its accountability, efficiency, self-sustainability and effectiveness, including, the support of a vetted, well-trained and adequately equipped "Rapid Reaction Force" within the FARDC which should form the nucleus for a professional, accountable, well-sustained and effective national defence force, while noting that any support provided by the UN, including in the form of rations and fuel, should be subject to appropriate oversight and scrutiny;

(e) Provide good offices, advice and support to the Government of the DRC for the reform of the police, including by contributing, in compliance with the HRDDP, to the provision of training to units of the PNC and including human rights training;

(f) Provide good offices, advice and support to the Government of the DRC for the development of a national justice strategy, and the implementation of justice and prison sector reform, in order to develop independent, accountable and functioning justice and security institutions;

(g) Encourage the consolidation of an effective national civilian structure that controls key mining activities and manages in an equitable manner the extraction, transport, and trade of natural resources in eastern DRC;

PSC Framework

16. *Urges* the Government of the DRC to remain fully committed to the implementation of the PSC Framework, including through the adoption of a priority action plan, and to protecting the civilian population through the swift establishment of professional, accountable and sustainable security forces, the deployment of an accountable Congolese civil administration, in particular the police, judiciary, prison and territorial administration and the consolidation of rule of law and promotion and protection of human rights;

17. *Notes with deep concern* the lack of progress up to date in those fields essential for DRC's stabilization and *reiterates* its call to the Government of the DRC to take immediate steps to uphold its commitment to SSR, including the support of an effective and sustainable Rapid Reaction Force, and to implement fully and immediately the national DDR programme, all of which will require the allocation of necessary resources and a continued commitment from the Government to prioritize reform;

United Nations Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region

18. *Calls on* the UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region, to continue his regional and international engagement in furtherance of peace, stability, and economic development in the DRC and the region, including through the promotion of timely, credible, and inclusive national elections, regional dialogue and by continuing, in close coordination with the UN Special Representative for the DRC, to lead, coordinate and assess the implementation of the national and regional commitments under the PSC Framework;

Elections

19. *Calls on* the Government of the DRC and its national partners to ensure a transparent and credible electoral process, in fulfilment of their primary responsibility to create propitious conditions for the forthcoming elections, including prioritization of those conditions necessary for the presidential and legislative elections scheduled for November 2016 in accordance with the Constitution and *urges* the Government as well as all relevant parties to ensure an environment conducive to a free, fair, credible, inclusive, transparent, peaceful and timely electoral process, in accordance with the Congolese Constitution and the electoral calendar, which includes free and constructive political debate, freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of assembly, equitable access to media including State media, safety and freedom of movement for all candidates, as well as for election observers and witnesses, journalists, human rights defenders and actors from civil society including women;

20. *Welcomes* the promulgation of the electoral law and the publication of a comprehensive electoral calendar for the full electoral cycle by the independent national electoral commission (CENI) and *calls on* the Government of the DRC to put swiftly in place an adequate electoral budget and an electoral code of conduct, and conduct a credible update of the electoral register, to ensure the successful and timely holding of elections, in particular presidential and legislative elections on November 2016, in accordance with the Constitution and the electoral calendar, while respecting the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, and further *calls upon* all stakeholders, to engage into an open political dialogue over the preparation of the upcoming elections, in accordance with the Constitution;

21. *Authorizes* MONUSCO, only upon notification to the Security Council by the Secretary-General that the conditions outlined in paragraph 20 are being met, to provide logistical support, as appropriate and in coordination with Congolese authorities and the UNCT, to facilitate the electoral cycle, and *decides* that this support will be continually assessed and reviewed according to the progress made by the Congolese authorities in the steering of the electoral process, in accordance with paragraphs 19 and 20 above;

Armed Groups

22. *Strongly condemns* all armed groups operating in the region and their violations of international humanitarian law as well as other applicable international law, and abuses of human rights including attacks on the civilian population, MONUSCO peacekeepers and humanitarian actors, summary executions, sexual and gender based violence and large scale recruitment and use of children in violation of

applicable international law, and *reiterates* that those responsible must be held accountable;

23. *Demands* that the FDLR, the ADF, the LRA, and all other armed groups cease immediately all forms of violence and other destabilizing activities, including the exploitation of natural resources, and that their members immediately and permanently disband, lay down their arms and release children from their ranks;

24. *Takes note* of the commitment of the Government of the DRC in carrying out military operations against the FDLR, further *notes* the recent launching of initial operations against the FDLR by the FARDC, and *stresses* the need to carry out operations in accordance with international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, as applicable, and strongly *encourages* cooperation between the Government of the DRC and MONUSCO on these operations, in accordance with its mandate to ensure all efforts possible are being made to neutralize the FDLR;

25. *Condemns* the brutal killings of hundreds of civilians in the Beni area, *expresses deep concern* regarding the persistence of violence in this region, *stresses the need* for a thorough and prompt investigation into these attacks in order to ensure that those responsible are held to account, *calls on* the government of the DRC for further military action, in accordance with international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, as applicable, and with the support of MONUSCO in accordance with its mandate, to end the threat posed by the ADF and all other armed groups operating in the region;

26. *Demands* that the Government of the DRC, per its commitments in the Nairobi Declarations of 12 December 2013, take immediate steps to implement and allocate appropriate funding to its DDR Plan, with particular focus on the sustainable reintegration of former combatants, in coordination with the United Nations, international organizations and neighbouring countries where former M23 combatants have found refuge, *stresses* the importance of overcoming obstacles to the repatriation of these ex-combatants, *requests* the Governments of the DRC, Uganda and Rwanda to strengthen their collaboration to urgently address the situation of former M23 combatants located in their territories consistent with the Nairobi declarations and in line with commitments under the PSC Framework, and in cooperation with the United Nations and international organizations, *and reiterates the importance* of ensuring that all provisions of the signed documents are implemented swiftly and in good faith and, in this regard, that the M23 does not regroup, join other armed groups, or, resume military activities, in line with the Nairobi declarations and relevant Security Council resolutions;

27. *Calls on* the government of the DRC to urgently implement and allocate appropriate funding to its DDR Plan including with regards to weapons and ammunition management activities, in order to be able to effectively deal with former combatants, including those already under FARDC responsibility and acknowledges that the absence of a credible DDR process is preventing armed elements of laying down their weapons;

28. *Recognizes* the ongoing contribution of MONUSCO in the fight against the LRA, *encourages* further efforts of the AU-Regional task force (AU-RTF), and *urges* greater cooperation, including operational cooperation, and information-sharing between MONUSCO, other UN Missions in the LRA-affected region, the

AU-RTF, regional forces, national governments, international actors and non-governmental organisations, as appropriate, in tackling the threat of the LRA;

Human Rights Humanitarian issues

29. *Urges* the Government of the DRC to arrest and hold accountable those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law or violations and abuses of human rights, as applicable, in particular those that may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity, as well as those involving violence or abuses against children and acts of sexual and gender-based violence, *stresses the importance* to this end of both regional cooperation and cooperation with the ICC, and *urges* the government of DRC to undertake the necessary judicial reform to ensure that the DRC effectively addresses impunity;

30. *Calls upon* the Congolese authorities to ensure the prosecution of those responsible for the grave human rights violations and abuses committed in the context of the 28 November 2011 elections;

31. *Encourages* the Government of the DRC to continue its cooperation with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence, and *welcomes* the appointment by President Kabila of a Presidential Adviser on Sexual Violence and the Recruitment of Children;

32. *Calls upon* the Government of the DRC to pursue the full implementation, with the support of MONUSCO as appropriate, of the action plan to prevent and end the recruitment and use of children and sexual violence by the FARDC, and to strengthen its efforts to combat impunity for conflict-related sexual violence, including sexual violence committed by the FARDC, noting that failure to do so may result in the FARDC being named in the Secretary General's report on sexual violence, and to provide all necessary services and protection to survivors and victims;

33. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to ensure full compliance of MONUSCO with the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuses and to keep the Council informed if cases of such conduct occur;

34. *Requests* MONUSCO to ensure that any support provided to national security forces is in strict compliance with the United Nations HRDDP, *urges* the United Nations system in DRC to adopt a join and uniform approach regarding HRDDP implementation, and *calls upon* the Government of the DRC to work with MONUSCO to support the promotion of DRC security service personnel with reputable human rights records;

35. *Demands* that all parties allow and facilitate the full, safe, immediate and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel, equipment and supplies and the timely delivery of humanitarian assistance to populations in need, in particular to internally displaced persons, throughout the territory of the DRC, respecting the United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian assistance and relevant provisions of international law;

36. *Calls on* all Member States to generously contribute to the UN humanitarian appeal for the DRC to help ensure that UN humanitarian agencies and

other international organizations are fully funded and able to address the protection and assistance needs of internally displaced people, survivors of sexual violence, and other vulnerable communities;

Cooperation with MONUSCO

37. *Demands* that all relevant parties cooperate fully in the deployment, operations, and monitoring, verification and reporting functions of MONUSCO, in particular by guaranteeing the safety, security, and unrestricted freedom of movement of United Nations and associated personnel, throughout the territory of the DRC;

Support to the UN Group of Experts

38. *Expresses* its full support to the UN Group of Experts established by resolution 1533 (2004) and *calls for* enhanced cooperation between all States, particularly those in the region, MONUSCO and the Group of Experts, *encourages* information sharing between MONUSCO and the group of experts and further *encourages* all parties and all States to ensure cooperation with the Group of Experts by individuals and entities within their jurisdiction or under their control and *reiterates* its demand that all parties and all States ensure the safety of its members and its support staff, and unhindered and immediate access, in particular to persons, documents and sites the Group of Experts deems relevant to the execution of its mandate;

Exit Strategy

39. *Stresses* that MONUSCO's exit should be gradual and progressive, tied to specific targets to be jointly developed by the Government of the DRC and MONUSCO, in consultation with UNCT and other stakeholders;

40. *Encourages* the Government of the DRC to make effective steps to enter into a regular strategic dialogue with the United Nations, building on the joint assessment process initiated in 2010 to jointly develop a roadmap and exit strategy for MONUSCO, including its Intervention Brigade;

41. *Notes* the need for a clear exit strategy of the Intervention Brigade, including through sustainable progress in ending the threat of armed groups and the implementation of sustainable SSR which may include the development of a Congolese rapid reaction force, and *expresses its intention* to review the tasks of the Intervention Brigade on the basis of the evolution of the situation on the ground and the implementation of its tasks according to paragraph 9 of this resolution;

42. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to make recommendations on the transition and reconfiguration of the United Nations presence in the country, based on the comparative advantages of the Mission and the UNCT, in order to continue to streamline the tasks assigned to MONUSCO, and *urges* the international community and donors to support MONUSCO and the UNCT and calls upon the Government of the DRC and neighbouring States to remain engaged in this process;

Reports by the Secretary-General

43. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Council every three months on the implementation of MONUSCO's mandate, including its Intervention Brigade, as set out in this resolution, including on:

(i) the situation on the ground, including updates on operations to neutralize armed groups and any instances where the Mission's protection of civilians obligations are not fully met, as well as sexual violence and the impact of conflict on women and children;

(ii) Progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the strategic review, notably the measures taken to transform MONUSCO's Force, including its Intervention Brigade, to become more efficient and effective in implementing its mandate;

(iii) Progress made by the DRC in the implementation of its commitments under the PSC Framework, including through the establishment and implementation of a national security sector reform roadmap, its provincial stabilisation plan supported by the ISSSS and on the implementation of the DDR and DDRRR plans;

(iv) An assessment of the outcomes of the strategic dialogue with the Congolese authorities on the exit strategy of MONUSCO, including in his September 2015 report recommendations on MONUSCO's reconfiguration and gradual drawdown, including its Intervention Brigade, in accordance with paragraphs 4 and 6 above;

(v) Progress made by the Government of the DRC on the electoral process, including on the provisions of paragraphs 19, 20, and 21 above;

(vi) The risks and their implications for the safety and the security for the UN personnel and facilities as a result of the possible military operations as well as measures taken to strengthen their security and mitigate risks;

44. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council every six months, in coordination with the UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region and the UN Special Representative for the DRC on the implementation of the commitments under the PSC Framework;

45. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

United Nations S/2015/210

Security Council

Distr.: General
26 March 2015

Original: English

France: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions and statements on the Central African Republic, in particular resolutions 2121 (2013), 2127 (2013), 2134 (2014), 2149 (2014), 2181 (2014) and 2196 (2015) as well as Presidential Statement S/PRST/2014/28 of 18 December 2014,

Taking note of the letter dated 29 January 2015 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council,

Determining that the situation in the Central African Republic continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Decides* to authorize an increase of 750 military personnel, 280 police personnel and 20 corrections officers for MINUSCA, in addition to the personnel authorized by paragraph 20 of resolution 2149 (2014);

2. *Requests* that the Secretary-General keep the new levels of military personnel, police personnel and corrections officers in MINUSCA under continuous review;

3. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

15-04859 (E) 260315

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United Nations S/2015/211

Security Council

Distr.: General
25 March 2015
English
Original: French

Letter dated 25 March 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the eighteenth monthly report of the Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), submitted pursuant to paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 2118 (2013) (see annex). The report covers the period from 23 February to 22 March 2015.

The destruction of the 12 remaining chemical weapons production facilities in the Syrian Arab Republic has continued. OPCW has now confirmed that the third underground structure has been destroyed, and the destruction of the fourth should be completed shortly.

With regard to the Syrian Arab Republic's initial declaration and subsequent amendments, OPCW technical experts continue their dialogue with the Syrian authorities. The OPCW Declaration Assessment Team is currently undertaking its eighth visit to the Syrian Arab Republic in order to clarify outstanding issues and consult further with the Syrian authorities. In view of the importance of that work, I call upon the Syrian authorities to continue to extend all necessary cooperation to OPCW.

The work of the fact-finding mission that is looking into allegations of the use of toxic chemicals as weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic is ongoing. As the Security Council knows, I take the allegations very seriously. I strongly condemn any use of such materials by any party to the conflict, and once again call for the perpetrators of any such acts to be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex urgently to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

15-04803 (E) 260315 260315

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Annex

[Original: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish]

I have the honour to transmit to you my report entitled "Progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme", prepared in accordance with the relevant provisions of decision EC-M-33/DEC.1 of the Executive Council of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, and Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), both dated 27 September 2013, for transmission to the Security Council. My report covers the period from 23 February to 22 March 2015 and also covers the reporting requirements of Executive Council decision EC-M-34/DEC.1, dated 15 November 2013.

(*Signed*) Ahmet **Üzümcü**

Enclosure

Note by the Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Progress in the Elimination of the Syrian Chemical Weapons Programme

1. In accordance with subparagraph 2(f) of the decision by the Executive Council (hereinafter "the Council") at its Thirty-Third Meeting (EC-M-33/DEC.1, dated 27 September 2013), the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter "the Secretariat") reports to the Council on a monthly basis regarding the implementation of that decision. In accordance with paragraph 12 of United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), the report by the Secretariat is also submitted to the Security Council through the Secretary-General. This is the eighteenth such monthly report.

2. The Council, at its Thirty-Fourth Meeting, adopted a decision entitled "Detailed Requirements for the Destruction of Syrian Chemical Weapons and Syrian Chemical Weapons Production Facilities" (EC-M-34/DEC.1, dated 15 November 2013). In paragraph 22 of that decision, the Council decided that the Secretariat should report on its implementation "in conjunction with its reporting required by subparagraph 2(f) of Council decision EC-M-33/DEC.1".

3. The Council, at its Forty-Eighth Meeting, also adopted a decision entitled "Reports of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria" (EC-M-48/DEC.1, dated 4 February 2015).

4. This report is therefore submitted in accordance with the above-mentioned Council decisions. It includes information relevant to their implementation during the period from 23 February to 22 March 2015.

Progress achieved by the Syrian Arab Republic in meeting the requirements of EC-M-33/DEC.1 and EC-M-34/DEC.1

5. Progress achieved within the current reporting period by the Syrian Arab Republic in fulfilling its obligations as per decisions EC-M-33/DEC.1 and EC-M-34/DEC.1 is described below:

   (a) With respect to the destruction and verification of the 12 chemical weapons production facilities (CWPFs) (seven aircraft hangars and five underground structures) in the Syrian Arab Republic as per Council decision EC-M-43/DEC.1 (dated 24 July 2014), three underground structures have been verified by the OPCW as destroyed, and destruction operations continue at one of the remaining two underground structures. It is expected that the destruction of all five underground structures will have been completed before June 2015. Regarding the destruction of the aircraft hangars, the removal of soil and of the large hangar doors is complete at five sites, as previously reported. Drilling to accommodate the explosive charges is complete at one hangar, and its destruction is to occur before the end of March 2015, subject to the timely delivery of the explosives. The drilling activities at the second site are expected to begin

soon. Currently, one underground structure and two hangars are not accessible owing to the security situation near these sites.

(b) On 18 March 2015, the Syrian Arab Republic submitted to the Council its sixteenth monthly report (EC-79/P/NAT.1, dated 18 March 2015) regarding activities on its territory related to the destruction of its chemical weapons and CWPFs, as required by paragraph 19 of EC-M-34/DEC.1.

(c) The Syrian authorities have continued to extend the necessary cooperation in accordance with the implementation of subparagraph 1(e) of EC-M-33/DEC.1 and paragraph 7 of United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013).

Progress in the elimination of Syrian chemical weapons by States Parties hosting destruction activities

6. As reported previously, all declared chemicals have been removed from the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic, and all declared stocks of the Category 1 chemicals have been destroyed. As at the cut-off date of this report, 91.9% of the Category 2 chemicals had already been destroyed, representing a combined total of 98%, including the isopropanol previously destroyed in the Syrian Arab Republic. The status of the destruction of the remaining Category 2 chemical and effluents at commercial facilities selected pursuant to paragraph 24 of EC-M-34/DEC.1, and at facilities sponsored by States Parties pursuant to paragraph 7 of decision EC-M-36/DEC.2 (dated 17 December 2013), is as follows:

(a) A total of 34% of the only remaining Category 2 chemical (hydrogen fluoride (HF)) had already been destroyed at Veolia ES Technical Solutions, LLC in the United States of America and at Mexichem UK Limited in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. While operations have recently resumed at Mexichem, the destruction of the remaining chemical at Veolia ES is currently on hold pending the resolution of technical issues.

(b) A total of 67.5% of the DF effluent and 93.8% of the HD effluent produced by the neutralisation process on board the United States Vessel MV Cape Ray has been destroyed by Ekokem in Finland and at the GEKA facility in Germany, respectively.

7. The Secretariat will continue to provide information on the aforementioned destruction activities during briefings to States Parties in The Hague and through the monthly reports. Timelines for the completion of the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons were provided in the overall report on the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme (paragraph 25 of EC-76/DG.16, dated 4 July 2014), which was noted by the Council at its Seventy-Sixth Session. While the Secretariat is not able to give a forecast at this stage about the completion of the destruction of the remaining chemical in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, estimates for Germany and Finland remain the end of March and the end of June 2015, respectively.

Activities carried out by the Secretariat with respect to the Syrian Arab Republic

8. Cooperation with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) has continued in the context of the OPCW Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic. As at the cut-off date of this report, 12 OPCW staff members were deployed as part of that Mission. The Special Adviser to the Director-General on Syria, Ambassador José Artur Denot Medeiros of Brazil, arrived in Damascus on 21 March 2015 to continue his meetings with senior Syrian officials, UNOPS staff, and the United Nations Designated Official in Syria.

9. The Director-General has continued to meet with senior representatives of the States Parties hosting a destruction facility or otherwise providing assistance with the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons. He also communicated regularly with senior officials from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic. As requested by the Council at its Seventy-Fifth Session (paragraph 7.12 of EC-75/2, dated 7 March 2014), the Secretariat has continued to provide regular information briefings to States Parties in The Hague on behalf of the Director-General.

10. As stipulated by the Council at its Seventy-Sixth Session (paragraph 6.17 of EC-76/6, dated 11 July 2014), the Secretariat and the Syrian authorities continue to cooperate on outstanding issues regarding the Syrian initial declaration. The Declaration Assessment Team (DAT) has thus far made seven visits to the Syrian Arab Republic, and a number of issues from the initial assessment of the Syrian declaration have been clarified. These are detailed in the Note by the Secretariat entitled "Third Status Report of the Activities of the Declaration Assessment Team" (EC-78/P/S/1, dated 4 March 2015), which was noted by the Council at its Seventy-Eighth Session. The Secretariat also gave a presentation to States Parties in this regard.

11. The analytical results of the samples taken during the DAT's visits to the Syrian Arab Republic in December 2014 and January 2015 were received by the OPCW from the two designated laboratories on 3 and 4 March 2015. The summary of the results was provided to the Syrian Arab Republic on 10 March 2015 and States Parties were briefed. The issue will also need to be discussed with the Syrian National Authority, together with the analytical results of the samples taken previously at the Syrian Scientific Studies and Research Centre.

12. The DAT will continue its technical consultations and its interviews with key principals from the Syrian chemical weapons programme, and undertake possible additional site visits involving sampling and analysis. The team's current visit is taking place between 22 March and 3 April 2015.

13. As reported previously, the implementation of additional special monitoring measures, as mentioned in Note EC-M-43/DG.1/Rev.1 (dated 21 July 2014), includes the use of a vault monitoring system. Fibre-optic cables have already been installed and successfully tested in three interior plugs at three underground structures, and the construction of the base monitoring stations for these structures has been verified as complete at one site. The installation of cables and construction of the base stations for the other two structures is nearing completion. Training for the operators on the installation, operation, and maintenance of the special monitoring system is scheduled to be provided by Aquila Technologies at the OPCW Headquarters in The Hague from

20 April to 1 May 2015. At that time, Aquila Technologies will deliver to the OPCW the first set of the special monitoring system equipment to be installed in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Supplementary resources

14. The total contributions of EUR 50.3 million in the Syria Trust Fund for the Destruction of Chemical Weapons and the contributors thereto remained unchanged compared to the previous report.

Activities carried out with respect to the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria

15. In accordance with Council decision EC-M-48/DEC.1, the Director-General circulated a document providing a generic outline of the future activities of the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) (S/1255/2015*, dated 10 March 2015 and Add.1, dated 13 March 2015). The Director-General informed the Council at its Seventy-Eighth Session about his exchanges with the Syrian Arab Republic in the context of an FFM team's expected visit to Damascus, to follow up on the information provided by that State Party in December 2014 alleging a number of incidents involving the use of chlorine. Meanwhile, there have been other reported incidents of the use of chlorine, which the FFM is monitoring closely.

Conclusion

16. The main focus of the future activities of the OPCW Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic will continue to be on the destruction of the nine remaining CWPFs and on making the special remote monitoring system operational in the five underground structures. The DAT and the FFM will also continue their work in the Syrian Arab Republic.

United Nations S/2015/212

Security Council

Distr.: General
27 March 2015

Original: English

Letter dated 20 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Angola to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to draw your attention to the recently concluded ninth annual joint consultative meeting between members of the United Nations Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, held in Addis Ababa at the African Union headquarters on 12 March 2015.

Following the consultative meeting, the members of both Councils agreed upon a joint communique (see annex).

I convey this joint communique to you in my capacity as Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, the Security Council body that engaged African Union colleagues on the attached text.

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ismael Abraão **Gaspar Martins**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative to the United Nations

15-04980 (E) 020415

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Annex to the letter dated 20 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Angola to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Joint communiqué of the ninth annual joint consultative meeting between the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and members of the United Nations Security Council, held in Addis Ababa on 12 March 2015

1. The Peace and Security Council of the African Union and members of the United Nations Security Council held their ninth annual joint consultative meeting at African Union headquarters, in Addis Ababa, on 12 March 2015. The meeting was convened to discuss peace and security issues in Africa within the context of partnership between the African Union and the United Nations.

2. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council reaffirmed the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security under the Charter of the United Nations and the mandate of the Peace and Security Council with regard to the promotion of peace and security in Africa as provided for in the Constitutive Act of the African Union as well as in the Protocol relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union. They also reaffirmed the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations on the role of regional arrangements in the settlement of local disputes and recalled the outcomes of their previous consultative meetings.

3. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council reviewed matters of common concern, in particular the conflict and crisis situations in Africa, and exchanged views on ways and means of enhancing the cooperation between the Peace and Security Council and the Security Council in preventing conflicts and crises in Africa, as well as on the review of United Nations peace operations.

On the situation in the Great Lakes region

4. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council expressed their deep concern over the security and humanitarian crisis that continues to affect the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo as a result of the ongoing destabilizing activities carried out by armed groups and spoilers, including the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and the National Liberation Forces (FNL). They reiterated their strong condemnation of all violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law perpetrated by the armed groups and called for the immediate cessation of all forms of violence.

5. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council reiterated the urgent need to step up efforts to neutralize all armed groups and spoilers in the region. They expressed their concern about the refusal of FDLR to disarm and demobilize voluntarily by the deadline of 2 January 2015 set by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the Southern African Development Community with the support of the African Union and the United

Nations. They noted the efforts by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to neutralize FDLR and looked forward to the urgent military and other measures to be taken jointly by the Government and the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) in that regard. They took note of the stated commitment of the Congolese authorities to carry out military operations against FDLR, and strongly encouraged cooperation with MONUSCO, in accordance with its mandate, to ensure that all efforts possible are being made to neutralize FDLR. They further called for the acceleration of the implementation process of the Nairobi Declarations.

6. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council stressed the importance of the scrupulous and timely implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region for the promotion of lasting peace, security and stability in the Great Lakes region. They urged the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to take further steps to implement its commitment under the Framework, including the establishment of a professional, accountable and sustainable national army that includes a rapid reaction force, in accordance with its commitment to deepen security sector reform, and the finalization of the development of a comprehensive disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and a disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, reintegration and resettlement plan, paying special attention to the specific needs of women and children. They underscored the important role of the guarantors of the Framework, namely the African Union, the United Nations, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the Southern African Development Community, in support of the implementation process, and welcomed the convening in Addis Ababa, on 2 December 2014, of the first meeting of the Framework guarantors. They also welcomed the outcome of the fifth meeting of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework Regional Oversight Mechanism, held in Addis Ababa on 31 January 2015, and stressed the need to ensure the implementation of the decisions adopted.

7. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council emphasized the importance of addressing the root causes of the conflict in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as the need for a comprehensive approach to restore peace and stability in the wider Great Lakes region. They called upon international partners to make every effort to ensure that the dividends of peace can be realized immediately through quick-impact projects at the local and regional levels to ensure economic development and to strengthen regional cooperation and economic integration. They drew the attention of the World Bank Group to the relevance of releasing the $1 billion pledged for the Democratic Republic of the Congo in May 2013.

8. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council welcomed the coordinated good offices work of the Special Envoys/Representatives for the Great Lakes Region to support the implementation of the Framework.

9. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council commended the contribution of MONUSCO, including its Force Intervention Brigade, in furthering peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and welcomed the commitment of troop-contributing countries to MONUSCO in the fulfilment of its mandate for the protection of civilians.

On the situation in the Central African Republic

10. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council expressed their concerns at the security and humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic. They strongly condemned the resurgence of violence in October 2014 in Bangui, the continuous cycle of provocations and reprisals and the human rights and international humanitarian law violations committed by armed groups. They called on all parties and stakeholders, particularly the leaders of the former Seleka and anti-Balaka groups, as well as all other armed groups, to immediately and permanently lay down their arms, release all children from their ranks and embark upon the path of dialogue towards achieving lasting reconciliation and peace. They further stressed the urgent need to end impunity in the country and to bring to justice the perpetrators of such violations and abuses.

11. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council reiterated their concern at the dire humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic. They also stressed the importance of the voluntary and dignified return of refugees and internally displaced persons and their full participation in the political dialogue and elections. They urgently appealed to the international community to provide financial and other forms of support to countries hosting refugees from the Central African Republic. They further recalled the need for an inclusive and effective disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process.

12. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council reaffirmed their commitment to the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Central African Republic. They called upon the transitional authorities to take further concrete actions for the promotion of an inclusive and comprehensive political dialogue and reconciliation process at both the local and national levels. They welcomed the ongoing local consultation process and the upcoming meeting of the Bangui Forum on National Reconciliation and urged all actors in the electoral process, including the transitional authorities and the National Elections Authority, to accelerate preparations to hold free, fair, transparent and inclusive presidential and legislative elections that will mark the end of the transition. In this regard, they urged the international community to extend all necessary support, including economic and financial support, to the Central African Republic.

13. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council welcomed the successful and smooth transfer of authority from the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA) to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and noted with satisfaction that the completion by MISCA of the initial stabilization phase had created conducive conditions for the deployment of the United Nations peacekeeping operation. They also commended Operation Sangaris and the European Union military operation in the Central African Republic for the work done in laying the foundation for increased security ahead of and in support of the deployment of MINUSCA.

14. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council emphasized that the continued role of the region, including the Secretary-General of Economic Community of Central African States and its mediator, as well as of the African Union, together with the United Nations, will be critical for the promotion of lasting peace and stability in the Central African Republic. They urged the signatories to the Brazzaville Agreement on the cessation of hostilities in the

Central African Republic of 23 July 2014 to immediately and fully implement its provisions, in particular articles 4 and 8 thereof, and called for the international mediation led by President Denis Sassou N'Guesso, the Economic Community of Central African States, the African Union and the United Nations to facilitate the early conclusion of an agreement on the disarmament of the armed groups, in the framework of the Brazzaville process and in view of the upcoming legislative and presidential elections.

On combating the Boko Haram Terrorist Group

15. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council expressed their strong condemnation of the horrendous terrorist attacks committed by Boko Haram, including the killing of civilians, use of women and children as suicide bombers, kidnappings, hostage-taking, pillaging and destruction of civilian property, recruitment and use of children, sexually-based violence and other abuses. They expressed their deep sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims and to the people and the Governments of Nigeria, the Niger, Cameroon and Chad. They noted with satisfaction that in its communiques on the Boko Haram terrorist group, the Peace and Security Council has emphasized that all operations against Boko Haram shall be conducted in full compliance with international law, including international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law.

16. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations is criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of its motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever it is committed. They recalled the placing of Boko Haram on the Al-Qaida sanctions list on 22 May 2014 and demanded the immediate cessation of all hostilities and abuses by this terrorist group. They also demanded the immediate and unconditional release of all those abducted who remain in captivity, including the schoolgirls abducted in Chibok, Borno State, in April 2014. They underscored the need to bring perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism to justice in accordance with international law.

17. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council expressed their deep concern over the humanitarian crisis caused by the activities of Boko Haram, which has resulted in the large-scale displacement of Nigerians within the country and into neighbouring Cameroon, Chad and the Niger. They commended the support provided to the refugees by the Governments of those countries, including with the assistance of humanitarian actors and relevant United Nations entities, and called on the international community to provide its support.

18. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council acknowledged the efforts of the Government of Nigeria in combating the threat posed by the Boko Haram terrorist group, in particular the regaining of territories earlier taken over by the terrorists, as well as the adoption of other initiatives at the national level toward ameliorating the conditions of internally displaced persons. They noted that the terrorist activities of Boko Haram posed a threat to international peace and security in the region and welcomed the collective efforts of the countries of the region to address that threat, noting with interest in this respect the establishment by States of the Lake Chad Basin Commission, namely Chad, Cameroon, the Niger and Nigeria, and Benin, of the Multinational Joint Task Force to combat the Boko Haram terrorist group. They urged the region to enhance

regional military operations and coordination to more effectively and immediately combat Boko Haram. In this regard, they welcomed the convening of a meeting of experts in Yaounde and N'Djamena in February 2015 to finalize the concept of operations. They stressed that all operations of the Multinational Joint Task Force must be conducted in full compliance with international law, including international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law.

19. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council commended the efforts of the States members of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and Benin in the fight against the Boko Haram threat in the region since January 2015. They paid tribute to all the soldiers who lost their lives in the conduct of those operations and also extended condolences to their Governments and members of their families. They condemned any hostility towards those operations and stressed that those responsible for such acts should be held accountable. They further stressed the importance of support to and cooperation with the Force.

20. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council took note of the communique of the Peace and Security Council of 3 March 2015 on Boko Haram, as well as of the letter sent by the Chair of the Commission formally transmitting the communique and the concept of operations of the Multinational Joint Task Force to the Secretary-General and, through him, to the Security Council, for their information and action. They agreed to consider the issue of Boko Haram as a matter of priority and looked forward to consideration of Security Council actions, as appropriate, considering that the Boko Haram terrorist activities constituted a threat to international peace and security in the region.

21. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council underscored the need for the international community and multilateral and bilateral partners to provide support to the States of the region in order to enhance the operational capacity of the Multinational Joint Task Force, including through the provision of financial and logistical assistance and relevant equipment. They welcomed, in this regard, the assistance already offered by bilateral and multilateral partners and noted with satisfaction the conclusions of the extraordinary session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa, held in Yaounde on 16 February 2015, including the establishment of a special fund and the decision to support Cameroon and Chad with emergency financial aid, troops and other forms of military assistance.

22. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council stressed that, in addition to the much-needed military and security operations against Boko Haram and other terrorist groups, sustained national, regional and international efforts should also be deployed towards the improvement of livelihoods, education and job creation, as well as towards the protection of human rights, including those of women and girls, and the promotion of justice and reconciliation. In this respect, they appealed for the mobilization of the required financial and technical support to the countries of the region, including in their efforts to revive the Lake Chad Basin Commission.

On Mali and the Sahel

23. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council welcomed the initialling, in Algiers, on 1 March 2015, of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, by the Government of Mali, the movements of the

Algiers Platform and all members of the mediation team. They urged the coordination of Azawad movements that have not yet initialled the document to do so without further delay.

24. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council called on all Malian parties to continue to engage constructively with sustained political will, a spirit of compromise and good faith towards a final settlement and stressed that the ownership and commitment of the Malian parties was crucial for the success of the whole process. They also underscored the critical importance of the full, faithful and immediate implementation of the final agreement and called on the Malian parties to demonstrate commitment towards its complete implementation. They also underscored the key role of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and that of the African Union High Representative for Mali and the Sahel and the African Union Mission for Mali and the Sahel, as well as that of the countries of the region and other international stakeholders, in supporting and overseeing the implementation of the final agreement, for which primary responsibility rests with the Malian parties.

25. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council commended the Government of Algeria and the members of the international mediation team, comprising the countries of the region (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mauritania, Niger and Nigeria), as well as the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the United Nations, the European Union and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, for their efforts to resolve the conflict in Mali.

26. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council expressed their full support for MINUSMA and highlighted its contribution to peace and security in the country. They paid tribute to the Mission's troop- and police-contributing countries for their continued commitment and sacrifices.

27. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council noted with grave concern that MINUSMA was the target of asymmetric attacks from terrorist and extremist groups operating in Mali and the wider Sahel region and expressed their strong condemnation of all attacks against MINUSMA peacekeepers, personnel and property.

28. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council noted with concern that the effective implementation of the Mission's mandate continues to be challenged by a number of factors. They encouraged the Secretary-General of the United Nations to further enable MINUSMA to reach its full operating capability as soon as possible, in particular to reach the ceiling of 11,200 uniformed personnel.

29. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council underscored the need to take the necessary measures to enable MINUSMA to effectively fulfil its mandate. They stressed the importance of the Mission reaching its full operational capacity as soon as possible and encouraged expedited efforts to deploy the remaining troops and police, as well as related enablers, to reach the Mission's authorized uniformed personnel ceiling, with adequate capabilities, training and equipment, including the reserve battalion intended to provide a rapid response capacity. They took note of the conclusions of the Niamey meeting of MINUSMA troop-contributing countries, held on 5 November 2014, in particular

the readiness expressed by African troop-contributing countries to further contribute to efforts aimed at enhancing MINUSMA. They also took note of the pronouncement on the matter made by the summit of the countries participating in the Nouakchott Process on the enhancement of security cooperation and the operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture in the Sahelo-Saharan region, held in Nouakchott on 18 December 2014.

30. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council reaffirmed their commitment to peace, security and socioeconomic development in the Sahel region. They stressed the need for a coordinated approach in the rapid implementation of the African Union and the United Nations strategies for the Sahel region. They welcomed the preparedness expressed by the United Nations to support the Nouakchott Process.

On Libya

31. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council stressed that there could be no military solution to the current crisis in Libya, and that only dialogue would bring about durable peace, security, stability and reconciliation. In this respect, they expressed support for the efforts being made by the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to facilitate an inclusive political dialogue among the Libyan stakeholders, including the meetings held in Geneva, Ghadames, Libya, Skhirat, Morocco, and Algiers, which could result in the establishment of a national unity Government. They urged all concerned Libyan stakeholders to rise above narrow political and other considerations in order to end the violence afflicting their country and meet the expectations of their people.

32. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council expressed their deep concern at the prevailing security situation in Libya and the continued terrorist acts in the country, as well as the resulting humanitarian crisis and violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. They noted, with concern, that some foreign terrorist groups have found safe haven in parts of Libya and expressed serious concern at the negative consequences of the current situation on the country, as well as on regional peace, security and stability.

33. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council also acknowledged the important role of the countries of the region, through the Ministerial Committee of the Neighbourhood. In this respect, they commended Algeria for its efforts aimed at facilitating the convening of a reconciliation conference that will bring together all relevant Libyan stakeholders. They called upon the stakeholders to engage constructively in the current dialogue process in order to achieve a successful outcome. They welcomed the establishment of the International Contact Group for Libya and underlined its critical and important role in coordinating international engagement in Libya. They look forward to the next meeting of the Group, which is scheduled to take place in Niamey on 1 April 2015. They commended the African Union and the Special Envoys/Special Representatives for their efforts in facilitating the Libyan peace process and encouraged them to continue their efforts.

On Darfur

34. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council expressed concern at the security and humanitarian situation in Darfur in 2014, including the continued clashes between Government forces and rebel armed groups, the escalation of inter-tribal fighting and other local clashes, including the involvement of paramilitary units and tribal militias, and the increase in criminality and banditry, all of which have resulted in substantial displacement of civilian populations. They commended the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) for its efforts towards the stabilization of the situation and its proactive protection of civilians, as well as its support to humanitarian personnel in order to facilitate delivery of humanitarian assistance to the vulnerable civilian populations in Darfur. They pledged full support to UNAMID and strongly condemned all attacks against the Mission.

35. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council reiterated their support for the efforts being made by the African Union High-level Implementation Panel for Sudan and South Sudan, with the support of the African Union-United Nations Joint Chief Mediator and the United Nations Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan, to facilitate an immediate cessation of hostilities in Darfur that would pave the way for the participation of the Darfuri armed movements in the national dialogue announced by the Sudanese authorities in January 2014. They reiterated the importance of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur as the basis for peace, emphasizing that the effective implementation of the agreement would go a long way in fostering peace, stability and reconciliation in the Sudan. They called on the Government of the Sudan and the armed movements to extend full cooperation to the efforts led by the African Union High-level Implementation Panel for Sudan and South Sudan and to display the required flexibility to move the process forward.

36. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council recalled the relevant provisions of Security Council resolution 2173 (2014) regarding UNAMID, including the implementation of its review, and the upcoming recommendations for the future mandate, composition, configuration and exit strategy of UNAMID, as well as its relationship with other United Nations actors in Darfur and the Sudan. They took note with interest of the agreement reached in February 2015 between the African Union, the United Nations and the Government of the Sudan on the establishment of a joint working group on the UNAMID exit strategy. They agreed to closely coordinate their efforts on these issues, including through the joint working group and they looked forward to receiving the group's agreed recommendations.

On Somalia

37. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council noted with satisfaction the significant progress achieved in Somalia despite the many remaining challenges. They commended the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Somali security forces for having successfully conducted Operation Eagle and Operation Indian Ocean, which resulted in the recovery of several strategic locations and the further weakening of the Al-Shabaab terrorist group. They underlined the need for the Federal Government of Somalia to intensify its efforts aimed at stabilizing and securing the recovered areas, including

the provision of basic public services and quick-impact projects, so as to consolidate the gains made. They also stressed the critical importance of more sustained efforts towards building capable and effective Somali security forces. They urged the Federal Government of Somalia to expedite the integration of the various militias under a unified national command.

38. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council noted the decision taken by the African Union Commission to thoroughly investigate the allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse levelled against some AMISOM personnel. They underlined the importance of holding to account those found responsible for any such abuses.

39. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council also welcomed the political progress made in the past months, including the State formation process and the passing of the electoral act. They underlined the importance of the prompt establishment of the National Independent Electoral Commission. They further underlined the importance they attached to the forthcoming United Nations electoral assistance mission. They called on the Federal Government of Somalia and other Somali stakeholders to expedite their efforts, in a spirit of national unity, to ensure the conduct of credible elections in 2016, including the adoption of the new constitution.

40. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council acknowledged the critical role of AMISOM in the stabilization of Somalia, particularly in view of the continued threat posed by the Al-Shabaab terrorist group. Accordingly, they stressed the need for enhanced support to AMISOM, including through new contributors sharing the financial burden of supporting AMISOM. They look forward to the outcome of the forthcoming joint benchmarking exercise, which will inform the next steps regarding the military campaign, taking into due consideration the political situation in Somalia.

On South Sudan

41. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council reiterated their commitment to the unity and territorial integrity of South Sudan. They expressed deep concern at the prevailing situation in South Sudan, characterized by continued fighting, a catastrophic humanitarian crisis and continuing human rights violations and abuses committed against the civilian population, including sexual violence, as well as the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict. They noted with utmost disappointment the failure by the South Sudanese parties to reach an agreement, by the deadline of 5 March 2015, at the last round of the peace talks led by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in Addis Ababa, which had been convened to complete consultations on outstanding matters to end the tragedy unfolding in their country.

42. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council urged the parties to recommit to an unconditional end to hostilities as provided for in the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement, as well as to negotiate in good faith and without preconditions and conclude their consultations on outstanding matters, with particular focus on the establishment and structure of the Transitional Government of National Unity as soon as possible. In this respect, they reiterated their determination to impose sanctions against all parties that threaten the peace, security or stability of South Sudan, in particular those who continue to undermine

the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement and obstruct the political process, in line with their relevant pronouncements in support of the communique of the twenty-eighth extraordinary summit of IGAD and Security Council resolution 2206 (2015).

43. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council underscored the need for enhanced humanitarian assistance to the internally displaced populations in South Sudan and to the countries of the region that are hosting South Sudanese refugees, including to the victims of sexual violence.

44. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council expressed their gratitude to IGAD and its current Chair, Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn of Ethiopia, for their relentless efforts to bring lasting peace and reconciliation to South Sudan. They welcomed the call by the Chair of IGAD to further enhance the mediation process, in close consultation with the other leaders of the region, the African Union and the United Nations, and expressed their readiness to support this process. They reiterated their commitment to continue to support the people of South Sudan to achieve their legitimate aspiration for lasting peace, stability and national reconciliation.

On the review of the United Nations peace operations

45. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council stressed the critical role of the United Nations peacekeeping operations in the maintenance of international peace and security. They noted with satisfaction the increased contributions of the African Union to the maintenance of peace and security, including through the deployment of African Union-led peace support operations, including peacekeeping operations, in response to conflict situations on the continent, notably in Burundi, Darfur, Central African Republic, Mali and Somalia. They further noted the challenges faced by the African Union-led peace support operations relating to funding and logistical gaps.

46. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council paid tribute to the memory of the African Union and United Nations peacekeepers who lost their lives in the cause of peace and expressed grave concern about the security threats and recurrent targeted attacks against peacekeepers in many missions.

47. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council noted that the nature of the security environment into which peacekeeping operations are deployed has changed significantly and that the current challenges facing United Nations peacekeeping operations included, in particular, transnational threats, armed non-state actors, illicit trafficking and other related emerging security threats, such as the rise of terrorism and violent extremism. They underscored the need to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations in facing those challenges and to achieve progress on a comprehensive, coherent and integrated approach to the maintenance of international peace and security.

48. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council welcomed the initiative by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to establish a high-level independent panel, under the leadership of former President of Timor-Leste Jose Ramos Horta, to undertake a review of the United Nations peacekeeping operations. They stressed the importance of the review for all regions, in particular for the African continent, which continues to host the largest numbers of peacekeeping operations, and took note, in this regard, of the consultations conducted

by the panel from 9 to 13 February 2015, with the Chair of the African Union Commission as well as with the Peace and Security Council of the African Union.

49. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council expressed their support for the independent high-level panel and looked forward to the outcome of the comprehensive review. They noted that the review provided an opportunity to further the common objective of the United Nations and the African Union towards building an innovative and forward-looking partnership between the two organizations, within the context of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations.

On women, peace and security

50. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council looked forward to the publication of the global study on women, peace and security and the high-level review on resolution 1325 (2000) in October 2015 on the fifteenth anniversary of the resolution. They commended efforts by the African Union to develop a continental framework on women, peace and security, and recognized the need to build networks of women mediators for use by both the African Union and the Security Council. They further highlighted the importance of implementing the African Union-United Nations Framework of Cooperation concerning the prevention and response to conflict-related sexual violence in Africa, signed in January 2014, and the ongoing cooperation between the two bodies on this issue.

On enhancing cooperation between the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the United Nations Security Council in preventing conflicts and crises in Africa

51. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council acknowledged the progress achieved in the ongoing cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union and stressed the importance of further strengthening this cooperation and developing an effective partnership consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations to address common collective security challenges in Africa.

52. They stressed the need to strengthen the cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union, including between the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the United Nations Security Council, in preventing conflicts and crises in Africa and expressed their determination to enhance the cooperation at the operational and institutional levels in that area.

53. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council underlined the importance of ensuring effective interaction through the exchange of information and analysis at the conflict prevention stage, as well as coordination and a clear understanding of respective roles in managing peace processes. In this regard, they acknowledged the value of establishing a regular and substantive informal dialogue, at all levels, between members of both Councils throughout the year to complement annual consultations. They underscored the fact that regional organizations such as the African Union and its regional mechanisms are well positioned to understand the root causes of armed conflicts owing to their knowledge of the region, which can be a benefit in the efforts to influence the prevention or resolution of such conflicts.

54. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council recalled the importance of the creation of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Security Council on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa. They further called for strengthening the role of the Ad Hoc Working Group to discharge its mandate to propose recommendations to the Security Council to enhance cooperation in conflict prevention and resolution, between the United Nations and the African Union. In this respect, they agreed to conduct a joint field mission to a conflict situation or area in Africa, to be identified through consultations between the two Councils, in the course of 2015.

55. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council agreed to convene their tenth annual joint consultative meeting in New York in 2016. The date of the meeting will be determined through consultations between the Chair of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the President of the United Nations Security Council.

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General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 25 March 2015 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Global hopes for peace have been further diminished by recent confirmations of the Israeli Prime Minister's anti-peace stance. His blatant rejection of the two-State solution endorsed for decades by the international community, along with his racist rant against the Palestinian-Arab citizens of Israel and the inflammatory rhetoric of his extremist cohorts, indicate the depth of Israel's intransigence and contempt for international law, human rights and the fundamental principles of democracy, equality and justice.

The words of Israeli leaders continue to translate directly into unlawful and inhumane deeds, causing more suffering and loss for the Palestinian people under nearly half a century of belligerent military occupation. The critical situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem — the territory constituting the State of Palestine — continues to deteriorate as illegal and punitive measures by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people continue apace. This toxic combination of developments at the political, security and humanitarian levels should be cause for alarm and should prompt urgent international action to prevent further destabilization and salvage the minimal prospects for peace before it is too late.

The escalation of illegal measures by the occupying Power, along with other emerging and worrying trends, are inflaming tensions and portend the explosion of yet another deadly cycle of violence, further endangering innocent civilian lives. Every single day, Palestinian civilians are attacked by the occupying forces and settler terrorists; Palestinian civilians are detained and arrested, with more than 107 Palestinians, including children, arrested in just the last week; collective punishment measures suffocate Palestinian movement and socioeconomic life; and Palestinian homes and properties are demolished and land is seized, with specific intensity in Occupied East Jerusalem and surrounding areas (so-called Area C) and

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Al-Khalil. During just one week, occupying forces demolished 30 Palestinian properties, including residences, forcibly displacing 78 Palestinians, as well as an electricity network, a factory, animal barns, water wells and a reservoir.

This is all part of a systematic campaign to oppress and dehumanize the Palestinian people and make their lives unbearable and their presence on their land untenable. All of this is aimed at facilitating the occupying Power's central — and blatant — objective of colonizing and de facto annexing more Palestinian land, in total contradiction to the Israeli Government's past pledges, which have turned out to be empty, and the international community's repeated demands to end this illegitimate occupation. Even a brief review of the recent period confirms these facts.

Israel continues to target Palestinian civilians with lethal force, in gross violation of international humanitarian and human rights law. On 11 March, a Palestinian fisherman, Tawfiq Abu Rayyala, aged 25, was shot and killed by the occupying forces while on his boat off the coast of the Gaza Strip, well within the permitted six-mile nautical zone. The killing of this young man comes amid almost daily attacks on fishermen that threaten their lives and livelihoods, which have already been undermined by Israel's punitive measures, especially its illegal, inhumane blockade, which has devastated the humanitarian conditions and coping abilities of the 1.8 million Palestinians in Gaza, the majority of them Palestine refugees, who also continue to suffer gravely from the enduring impact of Israel's wanton aggression and destruction of last summer.

Violent Israeli military raids and attacks against peaceful civilian protesters also continue to be routinely carried out throughout Palestine. In just the past week, more than 40 Palestinian civilians were injured, among them 13 children. According to Defense for Children International-Palestine, since the start of this year, occupying forces have shot at least 30 Palestinian children with live ammunition, critically wounding many, further traumatizing children and deepening the pervasive sense of insecurity among the civilian population as a whole.

Some recent incidents include the events that follow. On 10 March, Israeli occupying forces assaulted and injured seven Palestinian university students in Bir Zeit in the West Bank during a protest on the one-year anniversary of the killing of their classmate by the occupation forces. On 15 March, 11 Palestinians were injured when occupying forces attacked civilians in Nabi Saleh protesting the construction of Israel's illegal annexation wall. On 15 and 17 March, occupying forces shot at Palestinian farmers in an area east of Khan Younis in Gaza and in an area east of Gaza City. On 18 March, occupying forces shot at Palestinian civilians, injuring nine people, at Al Jalazoun refugee camp, during a protest against the construction of a wall between the camp and the nearby illegal Israeli settlement of "Beit El". On 20 March, occupying forces attacked protesters opposed to the wall in Kufur Qaddoum near Qalqilya, in Nil'in near Ramallah and in Bethlehem, injuring five Palestinians, including a 13-year-old child, and one journalist. On 20 March, occupying forces shot and injured two Palestinians in the town of Absan in southern Gaza. On 23 March, Israeli soldiers injured an 11-year-old Palestinian boy in a village near Bethlehem after repeatedly kicking and punching him.

At the same time, extremist settlers continue to terrorize the Palestinian people and to seize and destroy Palestinian property, including Muslim and Christian holy sites, with increasing depravity throughout the West Bank, including in Occupied East Jerusalem. They continue to be incited to terrorism by political and religious

leaders whose provocations know no bounds, and here I must draw attention to recent Israeli intelligence reports that extremist Jewish rabbis are inciting settlers in yeshivas to commit acts of terror and violence, including at least 20-30 settlers who are being prepared to carry out suicide attacks.

In this regard, I am compelled to reiterate the call for protection for the Palestinian people. International humanitarian law and the commitments undertaken for the protection of civilians in situations of armed conflict, including children and women, must be upheld as a matter of urgency in the State of Palestine, where civilian lives are under constant threat by the occupying Power, which has not only grossly abrogated its obligations but also clearly abdicated them.

We call again on the international community, particularly the Security Council, to act immediately to end Israel's impunity and resolve this conflict, which clearly constitutes a threat to international peace and security. The Israeli occupation must end and the Palestinian people must realize justice and their inalienable rights, including to self-determination and freedom. The Palestinian leadership will continue to use all legitimate, peaceful means to achieve these goals. The Council thus cannot continue to be absolved of its responsibilities and must act urgently to avert the further destabilization of this situation, with its far-reaching consequences for regional and international stability and the prospects for realizing a just and lasting peace in accordance with international law, the relevant United Nations resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative.

This letter is in follow-up to our 539 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 27 February 2015 (A/ES-10/675-S/2015/149) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed against the Palestinian people by Israel, the occupying Power, for which it must be held accountable and the perpetrators be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the
State of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations S/2015/214

Security Council

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26 March 2015
English
Original: French

Letter dated 24 March 2015 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Luxembourg to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you a letter dated 24 March 2015 from the Special Representative of the National Coalition of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Olivier **Maes**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 24 March 2015 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Luxembourg to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English]

On behalf of the people of Syria and the National Coalition of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces, it is my grave responsibility to draw to your attention the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Syria and the ongoing abuses perpetrated by Syrian regime forces and extremist terrorist groups, in direct violation of Security Council resolutions 2118 (2013), 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014) and 2209 (2015). The systematic perpetration of atrocities against Syrian civilians cannot be allowed to continue with impunity. Decisive action, including the imposition of a no-fly zone, must be undertaken by Security Council members to relieve the suffering of Syrian civilians and deter future atrocities.

March marked yet another deadly month for the Syrian people. As outlined in the enclosure, by 24 March 1,288 Syrians had been killed, 1,045 of them civilians. Of those civilians, 265 were killed as a result of aerial assaults conducted by Syrian regime air forces. Less than two weeks after the Security Council adopted resolution 2209 (2015), Syrian regime forces also deployed chemical weapons to injure, kill and terrorize civilians. On 16 March, six civilians — three of them children — were killed when Syrian regime helicopters dropped chlorine gas, a chemical agent, on the Syrian village of Sarmin, in Idlib governorate.

In March, Assad continued to use aerial attacks to besiege opposition-held areas and starve civilians into submission. According to the United Nations, at present 212,000 Syrians are living under siege, 185,000 of whom are besieged by Syrian armed forces and their affiliated militias. We believe these figures to be gross underestimations. According to the Syrian American Medical Society, a total of 640,200 people reside in besieged areas, the vast majority of whom are trapped by Syrian regime forces.

Life for Syrians in besieged areas is horrific. Syrians trapped behind regime lines suffer from chronic malnutrition, starvation, dehydration, communicable diseases and chronic conditions that, when left untreated, can become deadly. They are systematically denied essential items like food, water, medicine, electricity and fuel, as a result of which many are forced to forage for tree leaves and wild plants in urban areas. Because Syrian regime forces target medical workers and deny the passage of medical relief items, medical professionals and urgently needed medicine are often absent. The few medical professionals who remain in besieged areas report having to reuse blood bags, while a lack of electricity makes the safe storage of blood plasma impossible and a lack of anaesthetics means surgeries are often performed without them.

The war crimes and crimes against humanity perpetrated by Syrian regime forces are conducted as part of a State policy that has resulted in the deaths of over 220,000 Syrians, the forcible displacement of 11.5 million people and the rise of violent extremist groups, like ISIL, that torture, rape and terrorize with impunity. Regime policy also violates international humanitarian and international human rights law, including the fourth Geneva Convention, to which Syria is a party, as well as Security Council resolutions 2118 (2013), 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014) and 2209 (2015). These resolutions can and must be enforced.

Comprehensive action undertaken by the Security Council can immediately relieve the suffering of Syrians, prevent future atrocities and lay the basis for a political transition to peace and democracy. To do so, members of the Council must act without delay to:

- **Enforce Security Council resolutions 2118 (2013) and 2209 (2015) and authorize a no-fly zone over parts of Syria.** Aerial bombardment remains the Syrian regime's primary weapon of choice, allowing Assad's air forces to strike civilians indiscriminately and with impunity. A no-fly zone would put an immediate halt to such suffering, reducing the rate at which people are dying by as much as 30 per cent. It would create the conditions needed to establish a safe zone throughout parts of Syria and enable Syria's displaced people to begin the process of return. A no-fly zone is not a panacea. But, if successful, it would provide a way to begin to get a grip on the situation on the ground and create the conditions needed for responsible governance and the return of basic services. The Security Council has repeatedly pledged to employ Chapter VII measures in instances of non-compliance with resolution 2118 (2013); it is vital that it take such action now.

- **Refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court.** The Syrian regime and extremist terrorist groups have committed war crimes and crimes against humanity. The victims of those crimes deserve justice. A referral to the Court would not only put an end to impunity, it would deter further atrocities by establishing clear consequences for deadly actions and a vehicle for accountability.

- **Enforce the mandate in Security Council resolutions 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014).** Despite the adoption of Security Council resolutions 2191 (2014) and 2165 (2014), 640,200 Syrians remain trapped in besieged areas and millions more remain trapped behind conflict lines. Members of the Council should demand the full implementation of Council resolutions 2191 (2014), 2165 (2014) and 2139 (2014) and call on United Nations agencies to scale up their assistance across Syria's border with Turkey and Jordan.

- **Increase humanitarian commitments to the Syrian people.** On 31 March, the Third International Pledging Conference for Syria will take place in Kuwait City. We ask that members of the Security Council increase their commitments at this year's pledging conference to ensure that the United Nations meets its goal of raising $8.4 billion to help the people of Syria. Doing so will help save lives.

By employing the comprehensive action proposed above, the Security Council can begin to end the slaughter in large parts of Syria and lay the foundation needed for a political solution to the crisis. The Syrian National Coalition continues to believe that a political solution is the only way to create a lasting peace in Syria. But before such a solution can be reached, we must employ all measures possible to stop the violence and stem the death toll. With every day we wait, more Syrians will suffer and more civilians will die. Through your actions and moral courage, the

members of the Security Council can stop the suffering in Syria today. On behalf of my people, I appeal to you to do so.

(*Signed*) Najib **Ghadbian**
Special Representative
to the United Nations
National Coalition of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces

Enclosure

Syrian regime non-compliance with Security Council resolution 2139 (2014)

Paragraph 3. All parties immediately cease attacks against civilians and the indiscriminate employment of weapons in populated areas

- During the reporting period, Syrian regime forces continued to deliberately target camps, residential communities and crowded markets with explosive barrel bombs, ground-to-ground missiles and other weapons of widespread destruction.
- The total number of Syrians killed by Syrian regime forces in February 2015 was 1,251, according to the Syrian Human Rights Network. This included 123 women and 139 children. During the first three weeks of March, an additional 1,288 people were killed by Syrian regime forces.
- Regime massacres occurred in the following locations: Rif Dimashq, where 18 persons were killed; Aleppo, where 6 persons were killed; Idlib, where 4 persons were killed; Dara'a, where 3 persons were killed; Deir ez-Zor, where 3 persons were killed; Damascus, where 1 person was killed; Latakia, where 1 person was killed; and Hasake, where 1 person was killed.
- Barrel bombs continued to hit the city of Aleppo. In February, 116 barrel bombs were dropped on Aleppo, of which four were loaded with gases (chemical weapons).
- Regime forces launched 242 rockets from warplanes, two attacks with cluster bombs and 23 surface-to-surface missiles, which caused the deaths of 99 people, including 19 women and 23 children.
- Regime forces continued their policy of torture in prisons. In February, the Syrian Network for Human Rights documented the killing of 74 people under torture in regime prisons.
- The Syrian Network for Human Rights documented 12 massacres in the besieged area of Eastern Ghouta in February. A total of 181 people were killed, of whom 34 were children and 32 were women. Details of the massacres are set out below:
  - On 2 February 2015, warplanes bombed the city of Douma, Rif Dimashq, killing 10 people, including 2 women.
  - On 4 February 2015, warplanes bombed Douma, killing seven people, including four children.
  - On 5 February 2015, warplanes bombed the town of Ain Tarma, Rif Dimashq, killing nine people, including one child and one woman.
  - On 5 February 2015, warplanes bombed the city of Arbin, Rif Dimashq, killing seven people, including two children and two women.
  - On 5 February 2015, Syrian warplanes bombed Kafr Batna's produce market, killing 39 people, including 6 children and 4 women.

- On 5 February 2015, warplanes bombed Douma, killing 30 people, including 3 children and 10 women.
- On 6 February 2015, regime forces bombed Douma with about 40 missiles from rocket launchers, killing 13 people, including 4 children and 2 women.
- On 8 February 2015, regime forces bombed Douma with rockets, killing eight people, including four children and one woman.
- On 9 February 2015, the Syrian regime forces bombed Douma, killing 37 people, including 5 children and 4 women.
- On 21 February 2015, the Syrian regime forces bombed Douma, killing seven people, including two children and four women.
- On 22 February 2015, Syrian warplanes bombed Douma, killing six people, including one child and one woman.
- On 27 February 2015, Syrian warplanes bombed the city of Marj al-Sultan, Rif Dimashq, killing eight people, including two children and one woman.

– On the evening of 16 March, chemical weapons equipped with chlorine gas were deployed in the village of Sarmeen, killing a family of six (the mother and father of three children, and a grandmother).

– The Syrian Human Rights Network has documented the use of chemical toxic gases (most notably, poisonous chlorine gas) as weapons of war by the Syrian regime a total of 78 times since the adoption of Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), including six cases after the adoption of Council resolution 2209 (2015), in 32 Syrian areas, which caused the death of 59 people, including 11 children and 6 women, and injuries to about 1,370 people.

Paragraphs 8 and 10. All parties must immediately cease attacks against medical facilities and other civilian objects, as well as against medical personnel, and prioritize, to the fullest possible, medical attention for those in need.

– The Syrian regime continued its deliberate targeting of health centres. In March, four attacks by the Syrian regime on health centres were documented:

- An attack on a field hospital in Kafr Zita, Rif Hama, on 6 March 2015. The hospital was directly hit with barrel bombs from helicopters.
- A targeted attack on the Central Laboratory in Eastern Ghouta, Rif Dimashq, on 18 March 2015. Regime shelling injured staff and destroyed equipment.
- A targeted attack on Ehssan hospital in the town of Saraqib, Idlib, with a missile warhead from a warplane on 18 March 2015. The bombing caused considerable damage to the building and the destruction of medical equipment and ambulances.
- A targeted attack on the field hospital of Maraba, Dara'a, with a barrel bomb on 23 March 2015, which led to the destruction of the hospital.

Paragraphs 5, 6 and 7. All parties must immediately lift sieges of populated areas and allow unrestricted delivery of humanitarian aid. All parties must promptly allow United Nations humanitarian agencies and partners safe and unhindered access to populations in need.

Violation: the Syrian regime continues to besiege civilian communities

- 640,200 Syrians are currently under siege. No humanitarian aid organization or United Nations agency has been able to enter to meet the needs of the besieged population.

- The Syrian American Medical Society estimates that 38 additional besieged communities should be added to the United Nations list of besieged areas.

- The Syrian regime continues to impose sieges on Eastern Ghouta, Daraya, Hajar Aswad and Tadamun in Damascus. The sieges prevent residents from leaving these areas and also prevent the entry of essential materials such as food, medicine and medical supplies, fuel and infant formula. Further, the sieges deny all agencies and humanitarian organizations access to these areas, which continue to be shelled on a daily basis by many types of artillery, including rockets and barrel bombs.

- The humanitarian situation in the besieged areas worsens by the day, especially with the spread of communicable diseases at epidemic scale as a result of the blockade. Some of these include inflammation of the liver, typhoid, measles and tuberculosis. The situation is made worse by a deficit in the medical supplies needed to treat these diseases, compounded by the weakened immune systems of individuals under siege.

- On 10 March 2015, the Syrian regime closed the Wafideen Camp crossing, which was the only one to allow some merchants into the besieged area of Eastern Ghouta, to sell specific food items at prices 4-5 times higher than those of items in Damascus and in very limited quantities. This contributed to an increase in the food shortage and their prices. Prior to closure, the Syrian regime prevented several United Nations aid convoys from entering Eastern Ghouta through the Wafideen Camp crossing.

- The besieged neighbourhood of al Waer is west of Homs city, which has about 15,000 displaced families, and is currently under the control of the Free Syrian Army. The neighbourhood is surrounded by military barriers imposed by Syrian regime forces, preventing people from leaving the area.

United Nations A/69/840–S/2015/215

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
26 March 2015

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-ninth session
Agenda items 33 and 38

Security Council
Seventieth year

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Letter dated 6 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated 27 February 2015 in connection with the so-called "elections" to the "parliament" of the puppet separatist regime to be held in the Nagorno-Karabagh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 3 May 2015 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 33 and 38, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yashar **Aliyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

15-04873 (E) 010415

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 6 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Baku, 27 February 2015

According to the reports circulated by the mass media outlets of the Republic of Armenia, the so-called "elections" to the "parliament" of the puppet separatist regime are planned to be held in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 3 May 2015.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan reiterates, in this regard, that the separatist regime established by the Republic of Armenia in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan is ultimately nothing other than the product of aggression and racial discrimination; it is under Armenia's direction and control. It is well known that the Republic of Armenia unleashed the war and used force against Azerbaijan, seized almost one fifth of its territory, including the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven adjacent districts, carried out the ethnic cleansing of the seized areas by expelling about 1 million Azerbaijanis from their homes and committed other serious crimes during the conflict.

The international community has consistently deplored, in the strongest terms, the use of military force against Azerbaijan and the resulting occupation of its territories. In 1993, the Security Council adopted resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993), condemning the occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan and reaffirming respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the inviolability of its internationally recognized borders. In those resolutions, the Council also confirmed that the Nagorno-Karabakh region is part of Azerbaijan, and demanded the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of the occupying forces from all the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Other international organizations have adopted a similar position.

Against this background of continuing military occupation and ethnic cleansing of the territories of Azerbaijan, the holding of "elections" for the structures of the puppet separatist regime there constitutes a clear violation of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the norms and principles of international law, and, therefore, shall have no legal effect whatsoever.

Armenia's policy of annexation of the seized territories of Azerbaijan has no chance of succeeding. The only way to achieve a durable and lasting settlement is to ensure the unconditional and complete withdrawal of the Armenian armed forces from the Nagorno-Karabakh region and other occupied territories of Azerbaijan, the exercise by the forcibly displaced population of its inalienable right to return and the establishment of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan on the basis of respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity within their internationally recognized borders.

The Republic of Azerbaijan once again calls upon the Armenian side to cease its policy of annexation and ethnic cleansing, instead of wasting time and misleading its own people and the international community, and to engage constructively in the conflict settlement process and comply with its international obligations.

United Nations S/2015/216

Security Council

Distr.: General
27 March 2015

Original: English

Angola, Lithuania, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolution 1970 (2011) and all its subsequent resolutions on Libya,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Libya,

Welcoming the ongoing efforts of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to facilitate a Libyan-led political solution to the increasing challenges facing the country and *underlining* the importance of agreement, in accordance with the principles of national ownership, on immediate next steps towards completing Libya's political transition, including the formation of a national unity government,

Welcoming the ongoing UN-facilitated political dialogue, *recognising* the contribution of Member States to host and support meetings of that dialogue, and *emphasizing* the necessity for the constructive participation of the elected House of Representatives and other Libyan parties to take forward the democratic transition, build state institutions and start the reconstruction of Libya,

Gravely concerned at the growing trend of terrorist groups in Libya to proclaim allegiance to Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) (also known as Da'esh) and the continued presence of other Al-Qaida-linked terrorist groups and individuals operating there, *reaffirming* the need to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, including applicable international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, and *recalling*, in this regard, the obligations under resolution 2161 (2014),

Expressing deep concern at the threat posed by unsecured arms and ammunition in Libya and their proliferation, which undermines stability in Libya and the region, including through transfer to terrorist and violent extremist groups, and underlining the importance of coordinated international support to Libya and the region to address these issues,

Reaffirming the importance of holding accountable those responsible for violations or abuses of human rights or violations of international humanitarian law, including those involved in attacks targeting civilians,

15-04995 (E) 300315

Please recycle

Recalling its decision in resolution 1970 (2011) to refer the situation in Libya to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), *noting* the decision of the Pre-Trial Chamber dated 10 December 2014, and *emphasizing strongly* the importance of the Libyan government's full cooperation with the ICC and the Prosecutor,

Recalling the need for all parties to respect the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law and the United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian emergency assistance,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) (S/2015/144),

Taking note also of the special report of the Secretary-General on the strategic assessment of the UN presence in Libya (S/2015/113) including the recommendations on the configuration of the UN presence made therein,

Taking note of the final report of the Panel of Experts (S/2015/128) submitted pursuant to paragraph 14 (d) of resolution 2144 (2014) and the findings and recommendations contained therein,

Determining that the situation in Libya continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Calls* for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire, *underscores* that there can be no military solution to the ongoing political crisis, and *urges* all parties in Libya to engage constructively with the efforts of UNSMIL and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to facilitate, in accordance with the principles of national ownership, the formation of a national unity government and agreement on interim security arrangements necessary for stabilising Libya;

2. *Calls upon* all Member States to fully support the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General;

3. *Encourages* Member States, particularly in the region, to urge all parties in Libya to engage constructively in the UN-facilitated dialogue and work quickly towards a successful outcome;

4. *Condemns* the use of violence against civilians and civilian institutions and continuing escalation of conflict, including attacks on airports, State institutions, and other vital national infrastructure and natural assets, and *calls for* those responsible to be held accountable;

5. *Calls upon* the Libyan government to promote and protect human rights, including those of women, children and people belonging to vulnerable groups, and to comply with its obligations under international law, and *calls for* those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights to be held accountable;

6. *Condemns* cases of torture and mistreatment, and deaths by torture, in detention centres in Libya, *calls upon* the Libyan government to take all steps necessary to accelerate the judicial process, transfer detainees to State authority and prevent and investigate violations and abuses of human rights, *calls for* all Libyan parties to cooperate with Libyan government efforts in this regard, *calls for* the

immediate release of all individuals arbitrarily arrested or detained in Libya, including foreign nationals, and *underscores* the Libyan government's primary responsibility for promoting and protecting the human rights of all persons in Libya, particularly those of African migrants and other foreign nationals;

7. *Calls upon* the Libyan government to cooperate fully with and provide any necessary assistance to the International Criminal Court and the Prosecutor as required by resolution 1970 (2011);

8. *Encourages* Libya and regional States to promote regional cooperation aimed at stabilization of the situation in Libya, to prevent former Libyan regime elements and violent extremist groups or terrorists from using the territory of Libya or such States to plan, fund or carry out violent or other illicit or terrorist acts to destabilize Libya or States in the region, and *notes* that such cooperation would benefit regional stability;

United Nations mandate

9. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) until 15 September 2015 under the leadership of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and *decides further* that the mandate of UNSMIL as an integrated special political mission, in full accordance with the principles of national ownership, shall focus, as an immediate priority, on support to the Libyan political process and security arrangements, through mediation and good offices, and further, within operational and security constraints, shall undertake:

(a) human rights monitoring and reporting;

(b) support for securing uncontrolled arms and related materiel and countering its proliferation;

(c) support to key Libyan institutions;

(d) support, on request, for the provision of essential services, and delivery of humanitarian assistance and in accordance with humanitarian principles;

(e) support for the coordination of international assistance;

10. *Recognises* that the current security situation in Libya requires a reduction in the Mission's size, but *requests* the Secretary-General to maintain the necessary flexibility and mobility to adjust UNSMIL staffing and operations at short notice in order to support, as appropriate and in accordance with its mandate, implementation by the Libyans of agreements and confidence-building measures or in response to their expressed needs, and further *requests* the Secretary-General keep the Security Council informed prior to such changes to UNSMIL in his reports pursuant to paragraph 27 of this resolution;

Sanctions measures

11. *Reaffirms* that the travel ban and asset freeze measures specified in paragraphs 15, 16, 17, 19, 20 and 21 of resolution 1970 (2011), as modified by paragraphs 14, 15 and 16 of resolution 2009 (2011), apply to individuals and entities designated under that resolution and under resolution 1973 (2011) and by the Committee established pursuant to paragraph 24 of resolution 1970 (2011), and *reaffirms* that these measures also apply to individuals and entities determined by

the Committee to be engaging in or providing support for other acts that threaten the peace, stability or security of Libya, or obstruct or undermine the successful completion of its political transition, and *decides* that such acts may include but are not limited to:

(a) planning, directing, or committing, acts that violate applicable international human rights law or international humanitarian law, or acts that constitute human rights abuses, in Libya;

(b) attacks against any air, land, or sea port in Libya, or against a Libyan State institution or installation, including oil facilities, or against any foreign mission in Libya;

(c) providing support for armed groups or criminal networks through the illicit exploitation of crude oil or any other natural resources in Libya;

(d) threatening or coercing Libyan State financial institutions and the Libyan National Oil Company, or engaging in any action that may lead to or result in the misappropriation of Libyan state funds;

(e) violating, or assisting in the evasion of, the provisions of the arms embargo in Libya established in resolution 1970 (2011);

(f) acting for or on behalf of or at the direction of a listed individual or entity;

12. *Reiterates* that individuals and entities determined by the Committee to have violated the provisions of resolution 1970 (2011), including the arms embargo, or assisted others in doing so, are subject to designation, and notes that this includes those who assist in the violation of the assets freeze and travel ban in resolution 1970 (2011);

13. *Condemns* the continued violations of the measures contained in resolution 1970 (2011) and directs the Committee, in line with its mandate and guidelines, to consult as soon as possible with any Member State about which the Committee deems there is credible information that provides reasonable grounds to believe the State is facilitating such violations or any other acts of non-compliance with these measures;

Prevention of illicit oil exports

14. *Decides* to extend until 31 March 2016 the authorizations provided by and the measures imposed by resolution 2146 (2014);

15. *Urges* the Libyan government to provide regular updates to the Committee on ports, oil fields, and installations that are under its control, and to inform the Committee about the mechanism used to certify legal exports of crude oil;

Arms embargo

16. *Stresses* that arms and related materiel, including related ammunition and spare parts, that are supplied, sold or transferred as security or disarmament assistance to the Libyan government in accordance with paragraph 8 of resolution 2174 (2014), should not be resold to, transferred to, or made available for use by parties other than the designated end user;

17. *Urges* the Libyan government to improve further the monitoring and control of arms or related materiel that are supplied, sold or transferred to Libya in accordance with paragraph 9 (c) of resolution 1970 (2011) or paragraph 8 of resolution 2174 (2014), including through the use of end user certificates, and *urges* Member States and regional organizations to provide assistance to the Libyan government to strengthen the infrastructure and mechanisms currently in place to do so;

18. *Reiterates* its call upon Libya, with the assistance of international partners, to address the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons in the country, and to ensure the safe and effective management, storage, and security of their stockpiles of small arms and light weapons and the collection and/or destruction of surplus, seized, unmarked, or illicitly held weapons and ammunition;

19. *Calls upon* all Member States, in order to ensure strict implementation of the arms embargo established by paragraphs 9 and 10 of resolution 1970 and modified by subsequent resolutions, to inspect in their territory, including seaports and airports, in accordance with their national authorities and legislation and consistent with international law, in particular the law of the sea and relevant international civil aviation agreements, vessels and aircraft bound to or from Libya, if the State concerned has information that provides reasonable grounds to believe that the cargo contains items the supply, sale, transfer, or export of which is prohibited by paragraphs 9 or 10 of resolution 1970 (2011), as modified by paragraph 13 of 2009 (2011), paragraphs 9 and 10 of 2095 (2013) and paragraph 8 of 2174 (2014) for the purpose of ensuring strict implementation of those provisions, and *calls upon* all flag States of such vessels and aircraft to cooperate with such inspections;

20. *Reaffirms its decision* to authorize all Member States to, and that all Member States shall, upon discovery of items prohibited by paragraph 9 or 10 of resolution 1970, as modified by paragraph 13 of 2009 (2011), paragraphs 9 and 10 of 2095 (2013), and paragraph 8 of 2174(2014), seize and dispose (such as through destruction, rendering inoperable, storage or transferring to a State other than the originating or destination States for disposal) of such items and *further reaffirms* its decision that all Member States shall cooperate in such efforts;

21. *Requires* any Member State, when it undertakes an inspection pursuant to paragraph 19 of this resolution, to submit promptly an initial written report to the Committee containing, in particular, explanation of the grounds for the inspections, the results of such inspections, and whether or not cooperation was provided, and, if prohibited items for transfer are found, further requires such Member States to submit to the Committee, at a later stage, a subsequent written report containing relevant details on the inspection, seizure, and disposal, and relevant details of the transfer, including a description of the items, their origin and intended destination, if this information is not in the initial report;

Assets

22. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Libyan authorities to implement measures to increase transparency of government revenues and expenditures, including salaries, subsidies, and other transfers from the Central Bank of Libya, and *welcomes* the efforts of the Libyan authorities to eliminate the duplication of payments and to

guard against the illegal diversion of payments, and *encourages* further steps in this regard that ensure the long-term sustainability of Libya's financial resources;

23. *Supports* the efforts of the Libyan authorities to recover funds misappropriated under the Qadhafi regime and, in this regard, *encourages* the Libyan authorities and Member States that have frozen assets pursuant to resolutions 1970 (2011) and 1973 (2011) as modified by resolution 2009 (2011) to consult with each other regarding claims of misappropriated funds and related issues of ownership;

Panel of Experts

24. *Decides* to extend until 30 April 2016 the mandate of the Panel of Experts, established by paragraph 24 of resolution 1973 (2011) and modified by resolutions 2040 (2012) 2146 (2014) and 2174 (2014), *expresses its intent* to review the mandate and take appropriate action regarding further extension no later than twelve months from the adoption of this resolution, and *decides* that the Panel shall carry out the following tasks:

(a) assist the Committee in carrying out its mandate as specified in paragraph 24 of resolution 1970 (2011), and modified in resolutions 2146 (2014) and 2174 (2014) and in this resolution;

(b) gather, examine and analyse information from States, relevant United Nations bodies, regional organizations and other interested parties regarding the implementation of the measures decided in resolutions 1970 (2011), 1973 (2011) 2146 (2014) and 2174 (2014), and modified in resolutions 2009 (2011) 2040 (2012), 2095 (2013), 2144 (2014) and in this resolution, in particular incidents of non-compliance;

(c) make recommendations on actions that the Council, the Committee, the Libyan government or other States may consider to improve implementation of the relevant measures;

(d) provide to the Council an interim report on its work no later than 180 days after the Panel's appointment, and a final report to the Council, after discussion with the Committee, no later than 15 March 2016 with its findings and recommendations;

25. *Urges* all States, relevant United Nations bodies, including UNSMIL, and other interested parties, to cooperate fully with the Committee and the Panel, in particular by supplying any information at their disposal on the implementation of the measures decided in resolutions 1970 (2011) 1973 (2011), 2146 (2014) and 2174 (2014), and modified in resolutions 2009 (2011) and 2040 (2012), 2095 (2013), 2144 (2014) and in this resolution, in particular incidents of non-compliance, and *calls on* UNSMIL and the Libyan government to support Panel investigatory work inside Libya, including by sharing information, facilitating transit and granting access to weapons storage facilities, as appropriate;

26. *Calls upon* all parties and all States to ensure the safety of the Panel's members, and that all parties and all States, including Libya and countries of the region, provide unhindered and immediate access, in particular to persons, documents and sites the Panel of Experts deems relevant to the execution of its mandate;

Reporting and review

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council on the implementation of this resolution at least every 60 days;

28. *Affirms* its readiness to review the appropriateness of the measures contained in this resolution, including the strengthening, modification, suspension or lifting of the measures, and its readiness to review the mandate of UNSMIL, as may be needed at any time in light of developments in Libya, particularly outcomes of the UN-facilitated dialogue;

29. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

United Nations S/2015/217

Security Council

Distr.: General
27 March 2015

Original: English

Identical letters dated 26 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you a letter from the Permanent Representatives of the Kingdom of Bahrain, the State of Qatar, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, and the Charge d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Alya Ahmed S. **Al-Thani**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

15-04979 (E) 310315

Please recycle

Annex to the identical letters dated 26 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from our respective Governments, we have the honour to transmit herewith the joint statement issued today by our Governments in response to the request by the President of the Republic of Yemen, Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi, for the protection of Yemen and its people and to help Yemen to counter terrorist organizations.

We should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its enclosure circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jamal Fares **Alrowaiei**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Mr. Abdulaziz S M A **AlJarallah**
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.
Permanent Mission
of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Alya Ahmed S. **Al-Thani**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the State of Qatar to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Abdallah Yahya A. **Al-Mouallimi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Lana Zaki **Nusseibeh**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations

Enclosure

[Original: Arabic]

Statement issued by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the State of Qatar and the State of Kuwait

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Praise be to God and peace upon the Messenger of God

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the State of Qatar and the State of Kuwait have followed with great pain and concern the dangerous developments in the Republic of Yemen. The security and stability of Yemen have been shaken by coup that the Houthi militias carried out against the legitimate authorities. These developments also constitute a major threat to the security and the stability of the region, and a threat to international peace and security. Our countries have acted quickly and made every effort to stand with the Yemeni people as its strives to restore security and stability by building on the political process launched by the Gulf Cooperation Council initiative and its implementing mechanism, and to safeguard the region from the repercussions of this coup.

In that connection, the States members of the Council responded to the request made on 7 March 2015 by President Abdrabuh Mansour Hadi Mansour calling for a conference to be convened in Riyadh under the aegis of the Council that would be attended by all Yemeni political parties that wish to preserve the security and stability of Yemen.

As preparations for the holding of conference were under way in earnest, we received the following letter from President Abdrabuh Mansour Hadi Mansour:

> Dear brother the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, King of Saudi Arabia;
>
> Dear brother Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates;
>
> Dear brother King Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa, King of Bahrain;
>
> Dear brother Sultan Qaboos Bin Said, Sultan of Oman;
>
> Dear brother Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait;
>
> Dear brother Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar;
>
> Dear brothers, I write this letter to you with great sadness and sorrow in my heart owing to the serious and extremely dangerous decline in security in the Republic of Yemen, a decline caused by the ongoing acts of aggression and the incessant attacks against the country's sovereignty that are being committed by the Houthi coup orchestrators, with the aim of dismembering Yemen and undermining its security and stability.

We have made every effort possible to stop the heinous, criminal attacks being committed by the Houthis against our people, attacks that have left deep wounds in every Yemeni home. We have also strived with all our power to arrive at a peaceful solution that will take the country out of the dark abyss into which the Houthi coup orchestrators have plunged it, protect our people from the fire of chaos and destruction, and prevent the country from being dragged into a war that will consume everything, a goal that the coup orchestrators are still seeking to achieve.

Yet all our peaceful and constant efforts have been categorically rejected by the Houthi coup orchestrators, who are continuing their campaign of aggression aimed subjugating the rest of the country's regions, particularly the south. This has caused Yemen to go through the most difficult period in its history. Never before has the Yemini people, which abides by the principles of our pure Islamic religion, faced such heinous aggression that is contrary to the principles of Islam and international norms and legal instruments as that of the Houthi militias. Those militias are supported by internal forces that have sold their souls and are concerned only with their own interests. They also being supported by regional Powers that are seeking to impose their control over the country and turn it into a tool by which they can extend their influence in the region. The threat is therefore not only to the security of Yemen, but also to that of the entire region and to international peace and security.

In the light of those momentous events, it is vital to preserve the security and stability of Yemen and the region, not to mention international peace and security. Our brave Yemeni people, which has paid such a heavy price for the Houthi coup, must be kept safe. My constitutional responsibilities require me to protect the people and safeguard the unity, independence and territorial integrity of the nation. The Houthi militias have committed several acts of aggression, most recently deploying military columns to attack and take control of Aden and the rest of the south. The criminal militias have announced that they intend to move against the south, and the most recent report of the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General to the Security Council confirms that intention. It states that the Houthis' so-called Revolutionary Committee has instructed the military units under its control in the north to mobilize in preparation for an attack on the south. The report also states that the Houthis have continued to occupy Government buildings and have expanded to new areas, despite the repeated appeals of the Security Council. It indicates that, in a serious and unprecedented escalation, Air Force aircraft seized by the Houthis have continued to circle and bombard Aden.

The report of the Special Adviser states that the Houthis have now begun to move south towards Lahij and Aden. It refers to growing fears that Al-Qaida could exploit the current instability to create further chaos, drawing the country into yet more violent conflict and fragmentation.

I therefore appeal to you, and to the allied States that you represent, to stand by the Yemeni people as you have always done and come to the country's aid. I urge you, in accordance with the right of self-defence set forth in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, and with the Charter of the League of Arab States and the Treaty on Joint Defence, to provide immediate support in every form and take the necessary measures, including military

intervention, to protect Yemen and its people from the ongoing Houthi aggression, repel the attack that is expected at any moment on Aden and the other cities of the South, and help Yemen to confront Al-Qaida and Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant.

The Yemeni people will never forget how its allies stood by it at this tense and perilous time.

The Yemeni people will never let its trust in God Almighty be shaken. It will remain true to its national values, and will do everything in its power to safeguard the pride, dignity and sovereignty of the nation.

Abdrabuh Mansour Hadi, 24 March 2015

We are mindful of our responsibility towards the Yemeni people. We note the contents of President Hadi's letter, which asks for immediate support in every form and for the necessary action to be taken in order to protect Yemen and its people from the aggression of the Houthi militias. The latter are supported by regional forces, which are seeking to extend their hegemony over Yemen and use the country as a base from which to influence the region. The threat is therefore not only to the security, stability and sovereignty of Yemen, but also to the security of the region as a whole and to international peace and security. President Hadi has also appealed for help in confronting terrorist organizations.

Moreover, the acts of aggression have also affected Saudi Arabia, and the presence of heavy weapons and short and long-range missiles beyond the control of the legitimate authorities poses a grave and ongoing threat to our countries. The Houthi militias have failed to respond to repeated warnings from the States members of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Security Council. They have continued to violate international law and norms, and to build up a military presence, including heavy weapons and missiles, on the border of Saudi Arabia. They recently carried out large-scale military exercises using medium and heavy weapons, with live ammunition, near the Saudi Arabian border. The Houthi militias have already carried out a bare-faced and unjustified attack on the territory of Saudi Arabia, in November 2009, and their current actions make it clear that they intend to do so again. Our countries have therefore decided to respond to President Hadi's appeal to protect Yemen and its great people from the aggression of the Houthi militias, which have always been a tool of outside forces that have constantly sought to undermine the safety and stability of Yemen.

We ask God to protect Yemen and its people and to preserve it from strife and foreign intervention, which has nothing to offer the Yemeni people or of our countries. We ask Him once again to bring safety and stability to the people of Yemen.

United Nations S/2015/218

Security Council

Distr.: General
27 March 2015

Original: English

Draft resolution: Jordan

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005), 1989 (2011), 2161 (2014), 2170 (2014), 2174 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2195 (2014) and 2199 (2015), and its relevant presidential statements,

Reaffirming its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming that terrorism in all forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable regardless of their motivations, whenever and by whomever committed, and remaining determined to contribute further to enhancing the effectiveness of the overall effort to fight this scourge on a global level,

Reaffirming the need to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, and stressing in this regard the important role the United Nations plays in leading and coordinating this effort,

Recognizing that development, security, and human rights are mutually reinforcing and are vital to an effective and comprehensive approach to countering terrorism, and underlining that a particular goal of counter-terrorism strategies should be to ensure sustainable peace and security,

Reaffirming that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, or civilization,

Emphasizing that sanctions are an important tool under the Charter of the United Nations in the maintenance and restoration of international peace and security, including countering terrorism, and *underlining* the importance of prompt and effective implementation of relevant resolutions, in particular Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) as key instruments in the fight against terrorism,

Reaffirming its resolution 1373 (2001) and in particular its decisions that all States shall prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts and refrain from providing any form of support, active or passive, to entities or persons involved in terrorist acts, including by suppressing recruitment of members of terrorist groups and eliminating the supply of weapons to terrorists,

15-04997 (E) 300315

Please recycle

Recognizing the significant need to build capacities of Member States to counter terrorism and terrorist finance,

Reaffirming its determination to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, including those committed by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL also known as Daesh) everywhere, and urging all Member states to actively cooperate in this regard,

Expressing grave concerns over the growing trend of terrorist groups in Libya that proclaim allegiance to ISIL,

Expressing grave concern about ISIL, groups that have pledged allegiance to ISIL, Ansar Al Charia Benghazi and Ansar Al Charia Derna (Hereinafter collectively referred to as Ansar Al Charia), and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida operating in Libya, and about the negative impact of their presence, violent extremist ideology and actions on stability in Libya, neighbouring countries, and the region, including the devastating humanitarian impact on the civilian populations,

Deploring the terrorist acts being committed by ISIL, groups that pledged allegiance to ISIL, Ansar Al Charia, and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and associated with Al-Qaida operating in Libya, including the recent cowardly and heinous kidnapping and killing of a number of Egyptian citizens in Serte and the killing of Libyan civilians in Al-Qoba,

Expressing grave concern over the acute and growing threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters in Libya and the region which increase the intensity, duration and intractability of the conflict in Libya, and who also pose a serious threat to their States of origin, the States they transit and the States to which they travel, as well as States neighbouring to Libya that are affected by grave security burdens,

Recognizing that addressing the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters requires comprehensively addressing underlying factors, including by preventing radicalization to terrorism, stemming recruitment, inhibiting foreign terrorist fighter travel, disrupting financial support to foreign terrorist fighters, countering violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism, countering incitement to terrorist acts motivated by extremism or intolerance, promoting political and religious tolerance, economic development and social cohesion and inclusiveness, ending and resolving armed conflicts, and facilitating reintegration and rehabilitation,

Noting with grave concern the continued threat posed to international peace and security by ISIL, Ansar Al Charia, and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida operating in Libya, including in Southern Libya and reaffirming its resolve to address all aspects of that threat,

Expressing concern at the increased use, in a globalized society, by terrorists and their supporters of new information and communication technologies, in particular the Internet, for the purposes of recruitment and incitement to commit terrorist acts,

Commending the efforts undertaken by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to facilitate a political solution to the political and security crisis in Libya,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Libya,

1. *Condemns* all terrorist acts committed by ISIL, groups that pledged allegiance to ISIL, Ansar Al Charia, and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida operating in Libya, and emphasizes in this regard the need for a comprehensive approach to fully combat them;

2. *Stresses* the necessity of the full implementation of the Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005), 1989 (2011), 2161 (2014), 2170 (2014), 2174 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2195 (2014) and 2199 (2015), including with respect to ISIL, Ansar Al Charia, and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida operating in Libya;

3. *Urges* Member States to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and International Law, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, including those committed by ISIL, groups that pledged allegiance to ISIL, Ansar Al Charia, and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida operating in Libya in coordination with the Government of Libya;

4. *Encourages* the submission of listing requests to the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), by Member States of individuals and entities supporting ISIL, Ansar Al Charia, and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida operating in Libya, and further encourages the Committee to urgently consider additional designations of individuals and entities supporting ISIL, Ansar Al Charia and other listed entities in Libya;

5. *Expresses* its strong determination to consider listing pursuant to resolution 2161 (2014) individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with ISIL, Ansar Al Charia, and Al-Qaida operating in Libya, who are financing, arming, planning, or recruiting for them, or otherwise supporting their acts or activities, including through information and communications technologies, such as the internet, social media, or any other means;

6. *Reaffirms* that Member States must ensure that any measures taken to counter terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law, and international humanitarian law, and underscores that respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law are complementary and mutually reinforcing with effective counter-terrorism measures, and are an essential part of a successful counter-terrorism effort and notes the importance of respect for the rule of law so as to effectively prevent and combat terrorism, and notes that failure to comply with these and other international obligations, including under the Charter of the United Nations, is one of the factors contributing to increased radicalization and fosters a sense of impunity;

7. *Calls upon* the Committee established pursuant to paragraph 24 of resolution 1970 (2011) to consider expeditiously requests under paragraph 8 of resolution 2174 (2014) for the transfer or supply of arms and related materiel, including related ammunition and spare parts, to the Libyan Government for the use by its official armed forces to combat ISIL, groups that pledged allegiance to ISIL, Ansar Al Charia, and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities

associated with Al-Qaida operating in Libya, and urges relevant states to provide relevant information for such a request;

8. *Emphasizes* the importance of providing support and assistance to the Government of Libya, including by providing it with the necessary security and capacity building assistance;

9. *Calls upon* Member States to help build the capacity of other Member States where necessary and appropriate and upon request, to address the threat posed by ISIL, groups that have pledged allegiance to ISIL, Ansar Al Charia, and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida operating in Libya, and welcomes and encourages bilateral assistance by Member States to help build such national, subregional or regional capacity;

10. *Expresses* strong support for the efforts of the Libyan Government to combat ISIL, groups that pledged allegiance to ISIL, Ansar Al Charia, and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida operating in Libya, and of members of the international community assisting the Libyan Government in this regard upon its request;

11. *Recognizes* the important roles of the African Union, the League of Arab States and Libya's neighbouring countries with regard to finding a peaceful solution to the crisis in Libya and commend their efforts in countering the threats to international peace and security posed by ISIL, groups that pledged allegiance to ISIL, Ansar Al Charia, and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida operating in Libya;

12. *Expresses* its support to the United Nations led political dialogue between the Government of Libya, and all Libyan parties that renounce violence, and calls upon them to engage constructively with the initiative of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General with the purpose of forming a national unity government, and commends their continued participation in the dialogue;

13. *Directs* the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team of the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) to report, within 180 days, and provide a preliminary oral update to the 1267 Committee within 90 days, on the terrorism threat in Libya posed by ISIL, Ansar Al Charia, and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida operating in Libya, and on their sources of arms, funding, recruitment, demographics, connections to the terrorist networks in the region, and recommendations for additional actions to address the threat, and requests that after a Committee discussion of these reports, the chair of the Committee to brief the Security Council on its principal findings;

14. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

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Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2164 (2014), by which the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and requested me to report to it every three months on the implementation of the resolution and the progress on the implementation of the Mission's mandate. The present report covers the period from 17 December 2014 to 19 March 2015.

II. National political dialogue and reconciliation

Inter-Malian dialogue

2. During the reporting period and against a backdrop of a serious increase in the number of armed clashes, the parties to the inter-Malian dialogue held a fifth round of talks in Algiers. At the conclusion of the talks a revised draft peace agreement was presented by the mediation team and initialled by two of the three Malian parties. Throughout this period, in close coordination with the mediation team, MINUSMA continued to encourage the parties to reconfirm their ceasefire commitments and to reach an agreement through consultations with the parties and with their constituencies.

3. Between the conclusion of the fourth round of talks on 27 November and the resumption of the inter-Malian dialogue on 16 February, Algeria, the lead mediator, held bilateral consultations with each of the parties to the talks, namely, the Government of Mali, the Coordination, comprising the Mouvement national pour la libération de l'Azawad (MNLA), the Haut Conseil pour l'unité de l'Azawad (HCUA), the Mouvement arabe de l'Azawad (MAA), the Coordination des mouvements et fronts patriotiques de résistance II (CMFPR-II) and a faction of the Coalition du peuple de l'Azawad (CPA), and the Platform, composed mainly of CMFPR-I, CPA, a faction of MAA and the Groupe d'autodefense touareg Imghad et alliés (GATIA). The discussions focused on the provisions of the draft peace agreement, which had been drafted and distributed by the mediation, comprising Algeria, the United Nations/MINUSMA, the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the European Union, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mauritania and the

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Niger at the end of the fourth round of talks, as described in my previous report (S/2014/851, para. 8).

4. The Malian parties also held consultations with their constituencies prior to the resumption of the fifth round. The Coordination and the Platform engaged at different levels with their respective bases, while the Government organized a round table with key political and civil society actors in Bamako on 7 February. Opposition parties did not attend, arguing that they had not been consulted on the agenda of the meeting, and participants at the Government round table rejected the concept of "Azawad", as well as the proposed establishment of quotas to ensure the representation of all communities in State institutions. MINUSMA organized three workshops with political parties from the presidential majority and the opposition (7 and 8 January), women (13 and 14 January) and youth leaders (16 and 17 January) to provide them with an overview of the process that had led to the elaboration of the draft peace agreement as well as of its content.

5. On 27 January in Algiers, following serious armed clashes between the Coordination and the Platform in and around Tabankort (Gao region), Algeria chaired a meeting with the Government of Mali, the Coordination and my Special Representative for Mali, Mr. Mongi Hamdi, to discuss the security situation in northern Mali. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Algeria, Mr. Ramtane Lamamra, and my Special Representative issued a communiqué calling for an immediate cessation of hostilities; respect for the ceasefire agreement of 23 May 2014, notably in Intillit, Tabankort, Tarkint and Tessit (Gao region); and the prompt holding of a meeting of the Mixed Technical Commission on Security. It also announced the deployment of MINUSMA troops to the areas occupied by the armed groups to protect civilians. The Platform, which was not present at the meeting, objected to the communiqué and its references to areas under its control.

6. From 5 to 9 February in Algiers, my Special Representative convened an extraordinary session of the Comité de suivi et d'évaluation, established by the Ouagadougou Preliminary Agreement of 18 June 2013, to seek the reconfirmation of the parties' commitment to the cessation of hostilities and the ceasefire management mechanisms. On 14 February, he issued a summary by the Chair of the committee calling on the parties to end hostilities, refrain from acts of provocation and ensure a conducive environment for the holding of the talks. In parallel, my Special Representative and Algeria facilitated the signature on 19 February of a declaration by the parties, reaffirming their commitment to the cessation of hostilities and their participation in the ceasefire management mechanisms.

7. The fifth round of the inter-Malian dialogue took place in Algiers from 16 February to 1 March in the presence of senior representatives of all parties, during that time the mediation held separate negotiations with each party on the text of the draft peace agreement. The parties welcomed the document as a good basis for negotiation. However, their positions on substantive issues remained unchanged. The Government of Mali continued to oppose federalism in any form. It also reiterated its opposition to constitutional revision and the use of "Azawad" in the agreement, claiming it was a tactic by the Coordination to pave the way for secession. The Coordination maintained its insistence on a federal State and the recognition of "Azawad" as a political, geographical and cultural entity that would include the Gao, Kidal and Timbuktu regions. It also reiterated its opposition to the

return of the Malian defence and security forces to the north and repeated the need for the security forces and the management of natural resources to be led by the people of "Azawad". The Platform restated its request for a direct election system for regional authorities, called for a rapid redeployment of the Malian defence and security forces to the north that would include former Platform combatants, and suggested that the management of national resources be shared between the State and regional authorities.

8. On 25 February the mediation presented a revised draft agreement to the parties that sought to incorporate some of the feedback from the parties and to reach a compromise among their positions. The draft proposes a political, security and development package for enhanced regionalization within a unitary Malian State providing, inter alia, (a) the strengthening of the authority of regional assemblies and local governments, as well as the creation of a second parliamentary chamber and the introduction of quotas to ensure representation of northerners in State institutions, subject to a revision of the Constitution; (b) the return of the Malian defence and security forces to the north, the integration of former armed group combatants in a reformed Malian force as part of a comprehensive disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process and the creation of local police forces in the north; (c) the establishment of economic development zones in the three northern regions and the possibility of interregional cooperation; and (d) a national conference to address outstanding issues, in particular regarding the references to "Azawad". The draft agreement envisages an interim period of 18 to 24 months before the provisions of the agreement take effect and the establishment of a committee on the implementation of the agreement, chaired by Algeria, to support and oversee implementation efforts. It is envisaged that MINUSMA would direct the secretariat of the committee.

9. In presenting this draft peace agreement, the mediation announced that no further substantive changes to the text would be accepted and invited the parties to initial the document. On 1 March, the Government, the Platform, all members of the mediation team, as well as France in its capacity as observer to the talks, initialled the document, while the Coordination requested additional time to consult with its constituency. Further to the conclusion of the talks in Algiers, the Prime Minister of the Niger, Mr. Brigi Rafini, facilitated a meeting of the Coordination leadership in Niamey on 8 March to discuss the draft peace agreement. My Special Representative also attended that meeting, and MINUSMA provided logistical support.

10. Consultations by the leadership of the Coordination with their supporters in Kidal continued from 12 to 15 March. At their conclusion, the Coordination issued a communiqué stating that the draft peace agreement did not take into account the aspirations of the people of "Azawad" and requested a meeting with the mediation and international partners to discuss the way forward. On 17 March, my Special Representative led a delegation comprising key members of the mediation team and representatives of China, France and the Russian Federation to Kidal. The delegation reiterated to the Coordination leaders that negotiations would not be reopened and the text of the draft agreement would not be revised. However, they agreed to pursue consultations so that some of the Coordination's observations might be taken into consideration during the implementation phase. At the end of the meeting, the Coordination issued a statement, requesting the mediation to consider a number of observations regarding the draft peace agreement in order to

allow them to proceed to signing the agreement. On the same day, the Government indicated that it would not agree to reopen the text of the draft agreement for negotiation. In a communiqué of 18 March, the mediation reiterated its position that the negotiations were complete but that the Coordination's concerns could be addressed during the implementation phase. The mediation decided that Algeria would invite the Coordination leadership to Algiers to discuss how to proceed to initialling and signing the peace agreement.

Other major political developments

12. Meanwhile, on 8 January, the President of Mali, Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta, accepted the resignation of Moussa Mara as Prime Minister and appointed Modibo Keïta, formerly his high representative for the inter-Malian inclusive dialogue, as Prime Minister. On 10 January, Mr. Modibo Keïta formed a government comprising 28 members, of whom six were newly-appointed and three were women. None of the ministers from the previous government associated with corruption allegations was reappointed.

13. On 10 February, the National Assembly adopted a bill on the status of the opposition. The bill formalizes the rights, obligations and duties of the opposition parties and sets out modalities for the position of the leader of the opposition, who will act as a spokesperson and be given benefits equal to those of the First Vice-President of the National Assembly. The leader's official duties and activities are to be covered by the national budget.

14. On 31 December, the Government concluded the nationwide administrative census to update the civil registries, having enrolled 1,879,419 persons, of whom 448,374 were newly registered. The estimated number of Malian voters is now 7,876,879. With the support of the United Nations Integrated Electoral Team, the Government updated the voters' list and established a new biometric electoral list for the future municipal and regional elections. On 18 February, a ministerial decree set 26 April as the date of the communal and regional elections. However, the Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralization subsequently postponed those elections for the third time, without setting a date, on the grounds of instability in the northern regions and the absence of State administrators in many northern districts.

III. Security, stabilization and protection of civilians

15. The reporting period was dominated by a marked increase in insecurity as a result of more frequent clashes between Coordination and Platform armed groups; widespread banditry, particularly targeting vehicles and convoys; and high levels of violent extremist activity. Extremist groups continued to conduct operations in the Kidal region, including attacks against MINUSMA and the French forces of Operation Barkhane, and were increasingly active in other regions, including Mopti and Ségou in the west of Mali.

Clashes between compliant armed groups

16. On 20 December, MAA-Coordination combatants based in Ber and Didi (Timbuktu region) attacked Bamba (Gao region) before being repelled by the Platform. MAA-Platform and GATIA combatants based in Tabankort (Gao region)

retaliated by seizing Zahro (Timbuktu region) from the Coordination on 24 December. Bamba and Zahro are two crossing points on the northern bank of the Niger River. On 1 January, GATIA threatened to attack Ber if the Coordination refused to hand over six GATIA members in its custody. MINUSMA intervened with the GATIA leadership, warning that the Mission would use force, in accordance with its mandate and rules of engagement, if GATIA attacked Ber and placed peacekeepers and the local population in imminent danger. GATIA withdrew from the outskirts of Ber to Zahro on 3 January and from Bamba in the second half of January. The Malian Armed Forces established a post in Bamba early in February, intensifying widespread allegations of collusion between the Platform and the Government.

16. Competition for the control of strategic commercial and trafficking routes lies behind many of the armed clashes in northern Mali, including in the context of the fighting over Bamba and Zahro from 20 to 24 December. Following the closure of the nearby crossing point of the Niger River at Didi, control of Bamba and Zahro, located on the northern bank of the river, became critical for trans-Sahel trafficking. For example, aerial pictures taken by MINUSMA unmanned aerial systems on 24 December showed two convoys of trucks loaded with cigarettes and escorted by different armed groups. MINUSMA also received information on tensions between factions of the Coordination over the control of commercial routes. Early in February, in Menaka (Gao region), MNLA reportedly hijacked a truck that was transporting drugs from Gao to the Niger under the protection of the MAA-Coordination.

17. The impact of armed clashes on civilians in and around Tabankort town (Gao region) was a particular concern. Mounting tensions between the Coordination and the Platform led MINUSMA to dispatch long-range patrols and deploy a unit of 36 soldiers to Tabankort on 12 January. On 16 January, the Coordination attacked Platform positions in the town. Twenty-two civilians sought refuge at the Mission's temporary camp and MINUSMA reinforced its troops there. On 17 January, at least six GATIA combatants reportedly died while several others were wounded. Over the course of the fight to control Tabankort, MINUSMA medically evacuated to Gao 13 civilians and 6 Platform members who were no longer fighting. MINUSMA also provided medical care for 25 Platform fighters. The Mission subsequently undertook two integrated missions to assess the impact of the fighting on civilians and to engage community leaders on potential reconciliation initiatives.

18. Armed clashes however continued and, on 20 January, the Coordination fired heavy machine guns and rockets into Tabankort close to the MINUSMA position as well as civilian locations. MINUSMA sent two attack helicopters to monitor the situation and to deter further firing. As the Coordination continued to fire rockets, MINUSMA helicopters fired warning shots that failed to halt the shooting. Therefore, in accordance with the Mission's mandate and rules of engagement, the MINUSMA helicopters fired at and destroyed the rocket launcher. MNLA issued a statement accusing MINUSMA of having killed and injured some of its men. On 21 January, the Platform claimed that its forces had destroyed the Coordination position and called on MINUSMA to allow the armed groups to continue fighting in Tabankort.

19. The Mission's robust response in Tabankort triggered a series of demonstrations in support of and against MINUSMA. Coordination supporters

protested against MINUSMA in Kidal on 23 January, vandalizing and occupying the Kidal airstrip until 16 February, and in Menaka on 25 January. In Ber, however, the population ignored the Coordination's calls for protest, owing to the Mission's role in preventing an attack from GATIA on Ber early in January. In Gao, youth associations organized a demonstration in support of MINUSMA on 23 January.

20. Meanwhile, in accordance with its good offices mandate, the Mission attempted to facilitate the establishment of a local ceasefire in Tabankort to prevent further violence, obtain the withdrawal of Coordination and Platform armed groups from Tabankort, and the establishment of a temporary weapons-free security zone between Almoustarat (Gao region) and Anefis (Kidal region). In the course of parallel consultations with Coordination and Platform parties on a possible ceasefire, the Coordination manipulated a working document signed by MINUSMA and the Coordination, adding its logo and that of the United Nations, which it published on a social media site on 24 January. Malian authorities, the Platform and civil society groups strongly objected to this document and accused MINUSMA of seeking to displace Platform armed groups from the area. On 25 January, a delegation of representatives of youth groups and Platform armed groups in Gao warned MINUSMA that demonstrations would occur in protest against the alleged agreement between MINUSMA and the Coordination.

21. On 26 January, in Gao, a rally organized by the same youth groups and Platform representatives turned violent, protesters pelting the MINUSMA camp with stones and demanding that MINUSMA denounce the alleged agreement and its terms. On 27 January, protesters tried to force their way into the camp, throwing stones and Molotov cocktails and targeting MINUSMA formed police units. MINUSMA responded with tear gas and warning shots, while gunfire was also directed at demonstrators. The Gao regional hospital subsequently reported that three demonstrators were killed and 18 wounded, four by gunshots. Five MINUSMA formed police unit officers were also injured. On 28 January, protesters threw stones at another MINUSMA camp in Gao; MINUSMA fired tear gas to disperse the crowd. On 29 January, during his first visit to Gao since assuming office, President Keïta called on local actors to continue to cooperate with the Mission. He visited the Gao hospital where he met with those wounded during the demonstrations as well as GATIA and MAA-Platform combatants who had been injured in Tabankort. On 29 January, I announced the launch of an inquiry to establish the facts surrounding the violent demonstration in Gao on 27 January and appointed three independent experts to conduct swift and comprehensive investigations. The inquiry team began its work in Bamako and Gao on 20 February. Its report is to be completed by the end of March.

22. On 8 February, 17 MAA-Coordination combatants arrived on armed vehicles in Agouni (Timbuktu region) and occupied the town. They removed the Malian national flag from the municipal building and replaced it with an MAA-Coordination flag. Subsequently, schools were closed, humanitarian actors suspended their operations and transport vehicles stopped going to Agouni. On 26 February, the joint observation and verification team of Timbuktu, which has been operational since January, conducted its first assessment mission to Agouni. The composition of the Timbuktu team was completed on 10 March with the arrival of members from MNLA and HCUA.

23. MINUSMA continued its efforts to operationalize the Mixed Technical Commission on Security by establishing a permanent secretariat with dedicated capacity. The joint observation and verification teams conducted assessment missions to the six remaining locations over which control is contested by the parties. The resumption of hostilities, however, derailed the programme of work of the Commission, resulting in the cancellation of its monthly meeting in February. The Coordination continued not to participate in the Commission, contesting the participation of GATIA, which is not a signatory of the road map of 24 July 2014. Progress on the operationalization of the Kidal joint observation and verification team remained stalled.

Attacks by violent extremist groups

24. The reporting period saw a rise in the activity of violent extremist groups, including attacks against civilians. MINUSMA recorded 10 attacks in December (nine against MINUSMA, one against civilians), 18 in January (nine against MINUSMA, seven against civilians, one against the Malian defence and security forces and government personnel, one against MNLA), 14 in February (three against MINUSMA, one against Operation Barkhane, five against the Malian defence and security forces, five against civilians) and 13 in March as at 16 March (four against MINUSMA, two against Operation Barkhane, two against the Malian armed forces, five against civilians). Hostile acts against MINUSMA peacekeepers resulted in three peacekeepers killed and 35 injured during the reporting period.

25. On 24 December in Gao region, two mortar shells launched towards the joint MINUSMA-Operation Barkhane camp in Ansongo landed in the vicinity of the camp without causing casualties or damage. On 29 December, at least 15 rockets or mortar shells were fired at shared MINUSMA-Operation Barkhane-Malian armed forces infrastructures in Tessalit (Kidal region), including one rocket that landed inside the camp perimeter, destroying a vehicle of the Malian armed forces. On 31 December, at least three rockets or mortar shells landed in the vicinity of the airstrip in Tessalit. On 17 January, a complex attack was launched against the shared MINUSMA-Operation Barkhane camp in Kidal. Two vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices exploded at the northern entrance of the camp and at a MINUSMA checkpoint, 1 km east of the camp, while at least eight rockets and mortars were simultaneously launched at the camp. The MINUSMA force repelled the assailants but one peacekeeper manning the checkpoint was killed and another peacekeeper was injured. On 8 March, the camp was attacked again; six shells landed inside the same camp, killing one peacekeeper and wounding eight. MINUSMA and Operation Barkhane returned fire and ended the attack. In the course of the attack, two shells hit a civilian encampment, resulting in three civilians killed and two injured. The injured civilians were evacuated by MINUSMA and Operation Barkhane.

26. Attacks using progressively sophisticated improvised explosive devices continued unabated against MINUSMA throughout its areas of operation. From 17 December to 16 March, the Mission recorded 10 attacks with such devices against its personnel, resulting in one killed and 28 injured (11 injured in Kidal region; one killed and 16 injured in Gao region; and one injured in Segou region). On 18 December, a MINUSMA vehicle hit an explosive device 200 m from the Mission's camp in Aguelhok (Kidal region), resulting in three peacekeepers injured. The MINUSMA force pursued and arrested the suspects, who are members of

(UCA). The MINUSMA force handed them over to the Malian gendarmerie on 21 December. On 27 and 28 December, two radio-controlled improvised explosive devices found on parked United Nations vehicles in Gao were neutralized. On 21 January, a MINUSMA vehicle that struck an improvised explosive device 60 km east of Ansongo was subsequently fired at by unidentified assailants. One peacekeeper who sustained serious wounds later succumbed to his injuries.

27. There were increasing reports of extremist activity in the formerly peaceful regions of Ségou and Mopti. A first such attack also occurred in Bamako. On 5 January, armed men attacked Nampala (Ségou region) near the Mauritanian border, killing 11 soldiers of the Malian armed forces and injuring three. On 6 January, armed men attacked Dioura (Mopti region), 50 km south-west of Nampala, and set the town hall and the prefecture building on fire. On 8 January, armed men attacked the Fenenkou prefecture in Mopti region. A newly-created violent extremist group, the Massina Liberation Front, claimed responsibility for that attack on 16 January. On the same day, in Fenenkou, in fighting between armed men and the Malian armed forces, three soldiers were killed and five wounded. On 14 February, an attack by armed men on an armed forces position in Youwarou Cercle (Mopti region) resulted in two soldiers and six insurgents killed, and three soldiers wounded. On 7 March, two gunmen opened fire at a restaurant in Bamako, killing five people and injuring nine, including two international personnel seconded to the United Nations Mine Action Service. On the same day, Al-Mourabitoun claimed responsibility for the attack in a video released by a Mauritanian news agency.

Protection of civilians

28. On 6 March, MINUSMA adopted a comprehensive protection of civilians strategy. The strategy outlines a coherent and coordinated framework for the implementation of the Mission's protection mandate. Protection officers were deployed to the Gao and Timbuktu offices. From 19 to 24 February, military and civilian components of MINUSMA jointly visited a remote area south of Ansongo, where there have been a high number of violent incidents, to enhance civilians' security and sensitize the population on the Mission's mandate. The Mission intends to conduct similar operations elsewhere in the country. On 12 February, MINUSMA launched Radio Mikado in Gao and Timbuktu to reach out to and engage with local populations, including on the MINUSMA mandate and functions. The Mission plans to expand broadcasting activities to other locations.

IV. Re-establishment of State authority

29. The progress in the re-establishment of State authority that had been made early in 2014 receded in some parts of the north. There was no significant advance in the deployment of Malian security forces (national police, civil protection, gendarmerie and national guard). As at 15 March, only 1,995 security personnel were deployed across northern Mali, Bourem (Gao region) being the northernmost point of deployment. A widespread sense of insecurity persists in localities with minimal presence of security forces, such as Baye and Ouenkoro (Mopti region). In Gao, Mopti and Timbuktu regions, overall, 95 per cent of prefects are deployed and performing their functions, as are roughly 75 per cent of sub-prefects, the latter representing a drop of 5 per cent compared to the previous reporting period. Six

sub-prefects left Tenenkou Cercle in the wake of the January attacks. There is still no presence of State administrators in Kidal. On 10 February, the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization instructed all Kidal state representatives to report to Gao pending their redeployment to Kidal. Sixty-seven per cent of the planned judicial and corrections personnel are deployed in northern Mali. In spite of the promulgation on 26 December of two decrees reappointing magistrates to jurisdictions, only 7 of 12 tribunals and related prosecutors' offices and 7 of 12 prisons remain operational.

30. Access to basic services has not improved in northern Mali. While 92 per cent of health centres in the four northern regions are functioning, all of them depend on support from humanitarian organizations. Up to 58 per cent of water infrastructure remained non-functioning in Gao, Kidal and Timbuktu regions. In Mopti and Segou regions, 67 schools closed following the attacks in January, depriving 9,134 students of education. In Kidal region, all schools remained officially closed for the fourth consecutive year, although community initiatives managed to hold unofficial classes in 14 schools.

31. On 4 March, MINUSMA began renovating the Police Academy by means of a $4.5 million project funded by the Government of Japan. During the reporting period, MINUSMA police further strengthened its transnational organized crime cell, which now totals 17 officers, four of whom are co-located with Malian transnational organized crime-related units. MINUSMA police continued to deliver technical assistance, capacity-building initiatives, mentoring programmes, and specialized training for Malian police officers.

32. The European Union police training mission in Mali officially established its presence in the country on 10 February 2015, and 39 staff are currently deployed. While collaboration modalities and division of labour between the United Nations and the European Union are still being defined, liaison officers have been appointed and police experts from both missions provided joint training to Malian officers in public order management in February.

33. MINUSMA continued to work towards the development of coordination structures for national security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes by establishing a technical working group to coordinate international initiatives in support of the Government's National Council for Security Sector Reform. The first meeting of the technical working group held on 20 February brought together representatives of MINUSMA, the European Union, ECOWAS, the European Union training mission in Mali and the European Union police training mission.

V. Human rights

34. MINUSMA documented violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, ranging from arbitrary arrests and enforced disappearances to civilian casualties and ill-treatment. On 1 January, GATIA combatants beat two drivers and confiscated their vehicles at a checkpoint in Ber. On 7 January, two men from the Tuareg community were victims of ill-treatment by members of GATIA who had arrested them in Tessit (Gao region). On 23 January, in Tin-Wazadi (Timbuktu region), one woman was shot dead and her child injured during clashes between MNLA and CMFPR-I. On 28 January in Didi, MNLA shot a Songhai man

in the leg after the latter had refused to stop at a checkpoint. On 30 January in Kano (Timbuktu region), the Coordination arbitrarily arrested 54 persons, including children, and detained them in Ber until 3 February.

35. The continued unlawful detention of civilians for prolonged periods by the Platform and the Coordination on ethnic grounds is of particular concern. Around 20 January, MNLA arrested four GATIA combatants in Tabankort and detained them in Kidal. On 11 February, GATIA arrested five men and two boys in Ersane (Gao region), and handed them over to the Malian armed forces and the gendarmerie. They were all released on 21 February with no legal consequences. In mid-February, the Platform released six persons in Tabankort, while the Coordination released five persons in Ber. As these civilians were unlawfully seized and detained not in relation to military hostilities, security or the commission of a crime, and they were released only as a result of an exchange of persons, the conduct of the Coordination and the Platform could be qualified as hostage-taking. MINUSMA is aware that other civilians continue to be held by armed groups, including three civilians being held by the Platform since January, presumably in Tabankort. An elderly counsellor and MNLA supporter from Anefis was arrested by the Platform on 20 January while travelling to Tabankort and died in detention.

36. There was no progress in the prosecution of alleged human rights violations by Malian authorities. The two court cases against General Sanogo did not progress, one case being in the pre-trial phase and the indictment in the other case still being formulated. The killing of 16 preachers in a Malian armed forces camp in Diabaly (Segou region) in September 2012 remained under investigation as did the summary execution of three individuals from the Tuareg community by Malian soldiers in Djebock (Gao region) in February 2014; the shooting of an unarmed detainee by prison guards in Gao on 3 October 2014; and the indiscriminate firing by a Malian soldier in a public place in Gao, killing one civilian and injuring five, on 16 November 2014. In addition, no investigation has been initiated into the killing on 12 April 2014 of a Dogon man by police officers in Mopti.

37. As at 11 March, 236 persons remained in detention by Malian authorities in relation to the conflict since 2012, including 26 whose release has been requested by armed groups under the confidence-building measures foreseen in the Ouagadougou Preliminary Agreement. On 18 December, the Criminal Court (Cour d'assises) in Bamako issued a judgement on a conflict-related case for the first time, with a sentence of five years' detention for conspiracy, insurrection, terrorism and illegal possession of weapons and munitions of war.

Violations of women's rights

38. Judicial proceedings for the 80 criminal complaints of sexual violence allegedly committed by members of armed groups in 2012, filed by local non-governmental human rights organizations in November 2014, have not progressed. Judges have yet to be selected to oversee their adjudication. Twenty-four cases, also filed by non-governmental organizations, remained pending at the First Instance Tribunal of Timbuktu, as the First Instance Tribunal of Bamako Commune III, which is tasked by the Supreme Court to process all conflict-related cases, has not yet selected the members of a commission that will decide on the possible transfer of the 24 cases from Timbuktu to Bamako.

Violations of children's rights

39. Children continued to be sighted within the ranks of MNLA, HCUA and GATIA, while MNLA, HCUA, the MAA-Coordination, the MAA-Platform, and CPA continued to occupy 20 schools in Gao, Kidal and Timbuktu regions. From 16 to 18 December, MINUSMA held discussions in Kidal with MNLA and HCUA on their alleged recruitment and use of children. HCUA committed itself to undertake an age assessment of its combatants and release any minors identified. MNLA, which has a record of extensive recruitment and use of children, stated that it had forbidden its combatants from committing such violations of children's rights.

40. Four cases of sexual violence against children aged between 11 and 15 years were reported, all rapes allegedly perpetrated by members of the Malian defence and security forces in Gao region in October and November 2014. The four children have received medical care. Investigations are ongoing on three cases; the Malian gendarmerie has arrested one suspect and one accomplice. However, in the fourth case, the alleged perpetrator, a senior police officer, was transferred to another duty station by Malian police authorities.

41. MINUSMA and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) continue to monitor the detention of children in Bamako prisons. Malian authorities released one child on 25 February but were unable to confirm the whereabouts of three other children who had previously been detained. As at 17 March, six children remained in detention in Bamako for alleged association with armed groups, one for as long as two years, in contravention of the protocol on the release and reintegration of children associated with the armed forces and armed groups of 1 July 2013.

VI. Humanitarian assistance

42. The deteriorating security situation continued to hamper humanitarian access in northern Mali. Over the reporting period, seven vehicles of humanitarian actors were carjacked, four on the Timbuktu-Goundam axis (Timbuktu region) and three in Bourem Cercle (Gao region). MINUSMA and the Malian armed forces have conducted coordinated patrols along the Timbuktu-Goundam axis. In Mopti and Segou regions, the attacks in January led to the temporary withdrawal of three international non-governmental organizations for about one month. Similarly, the temporary closure of the Kidal airfield in January and February severely hampered the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the region. Food distributions by the World Food Programme to school canteens in 10 communes in Timbuktu region have been suspended since 16 February owing to security concerns. In the same region, local authorities, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and MINUSMA identified concrete measures to facilitate and improve humanitarian access, some of which have already been implemented, such as reinforced presence and patrols of the Malian armed forces. The Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department of the European Commission and the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service increased the number of flights to northern Mali in January and February, respectively.

43. There was a decrease in the number of internally displaced persons: there were 61,621 persons as at 31 December, down from 86,216 in October 2014. The number of Malian refugees registered in neighbouring countries also decreased,

132,915 persons were registered as at 31 January in comparison to 143,530 in mid-November 2014.

44. The 2015 Humanitarian Strategic Response Plan, which was launched in New York on 12 February by the Emergency Relief Coordinator as part of the global launch of the $2 billion appeal for the Sahel, was introduced in Bamako on 26 February by the Humanitarian Coordinator. The Strategic Response Plan for Mali amounts to $377 million, half of which is directed towards addressing the needs of conflict-affected people in northern and central Mali, while the other half is dedicated to responding to persisting food insecurity and malnutrition nationwide. This appeal is $200 million lower than the 2014 appeal because of the Government's mobilization and a decrease in identified food security needs.

45. On 18 January 2015, the Government of Mali and the World Health Organization announced the end of the Ebola epidemic in Mali after 42 days without any new registered case.

VII. Early recovery and development

46. On 17 and 18 December, the Immediate Response Facility of the Peacebuilding Fund announced funding for four projects in Mali for a total of $7.6 million, including projects in support of women and youth, returnees, education and the future cantonment process that will be implemented by the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration, UNICEF, the United Nations Office for Project Services and MINUSMA for 18 months from early 2015 to mid-2016.

47. On 19 December, MINUSMA and the United Nations country team finalized the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for 2015-2019. With an envelope of over $1.1 billion, the Framework for 2015-2019 provides that United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and MINUSMA will focus their efforts in support of the Government on four main priorities, namely, (a) peace, security and reconciliation; (b) good governance; (c) access to social services; and (d) sustainable development.

48. On 30 January, MINUSMA launched its regional stabilization and recovery plan for Gao region. The plan was developed further to wide consultations with regional authorities, technical and financial partners and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, as well as a security and conflict analysis conducted jointly with the MINUSMA All Sources Information Fusion Unit. The plan identifies priority zones and proposes concrete actions under five overall objectives: enabling security environment, including protection of civilians; restoration of State authority; economic recovery; provision of basic social services; and social cohesion. Similar regional plans for Timbuktu and Mopti have been developed and are pending endorsement by all stakeholders.

49. From 28 to 30 January, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) organized an international conference on the ancient Malian manuscripts in Bamako. Participants called for the adoption of an emergency plan to preserve the manuscripts and recommended the digital archiving of manuscripts in Bamako to help conserve them. One of four private libraries in

Timbuktu was renovated by a joint MINUSMA-UNESCO quick-impact project in January.

50. On 4 February, preliminary findings of the joint MINUSMA-World Bank research on the socioeconomic impact of MINUSMA were released. The total economic impact of MINUSMA expenditure in Mali approximated $69 million in its first year, which amounts to approximately 0.7 per cent of the Malian GDP. 45 per cent of which stems from direct spending by personnel and contingents. MINUSMA expenditure did not generate overall inflation, although the prices of some specific products were perceived to have risen as a consequence of the Mission's presence. The study concluded that the United Nations and international donors represented an important source of employment. MINUSMA created 670 jobs; while directly and indirectly created jobs were assessed to have generated some 2,000 to 3,000 positions.

VIII. Expansion and operationalization of the Mission

51. As at 13 March, 78 per cent of all MINUSMA civilian staff had deployed; 80 per cent of authorized international posts, 79 per cent of United Nations Volunteers positions and 75 per cent of all national posts were filled. The MINUSMA police component was staffed at 73 per cent of its authorized strength of 1,440 as at 13 March, with 63 per cent of the authorized individual police officers and 76 per cent of the planned formed police unit personnel on the ground, including an additional formed police unit that is in the process of deploying. Also as at 13 March, 79 per cent of the authorized military strength of 11,200 has deployed.

52. While the Mission's second reserve battalion commenced deployment on 26 February, outstanding deployments, including of an infantry battalion in Sector West and helicopter units, continued to hamper the force's ability to fulfil its mandate and protect convoy movements. Faced with continuing attacks on MINUSMA civilian contracted convoys, the force did its utmost to provide escorts although it is severely overstretched. A total of 11 attacks occurred against MINUSMA contracted convoys, including an attack on 4 January 60 km north of Gao between Anefis and Gao, in which seven vehicles were burned while their cargo remained intact, and an attack on 10 January 70 km east of Ansongo, which resulted in two trucks burned by two armed men. The MINUSMA forces have repelled attacks against convoys under their escort, for example when assailants launched an attack using mortars and machine guns against a convoy of 31 contractor vehicles travelling from Gao to Kidal under MINUSMA escort 23 km south of Almoustarat on 10 March. On 13 March, when approximately 30 assailants launched an ambush against MINUSMA-escorted vehicles near Indelimane on the Menaka-Ansongo axis, the force returned fire and captured four assailants; they were handed over to the Malian authorities in Bamako on 16 March.

53. Efforts were made to upgrade remote deployment locations and enhance the Mission's capacity to respond to medical emergencies. The Mission developed a rotation plan for Sector North covering Kidal region, which will be implemented upon the arrival of the reserve battalion. The level II hospital was relocated from Sevare to Kidal and reached full operating capability. The deployment of an additional military aviation unit with a tactical military transport aircraft (CASA

2953) in January facilitated the Mission's medical and casualty evacuation flights in locations where fixed-wing aircraft can land. Meanwhile, Operation Barkhane continues to support the Mission with night casualty evacuations. The MINUSMA level I hospital in Bamako was upgraded to "level I plus" to include a small operating room and a small intensive care ward.

54. Good progress in MINUSMA construction was made despite persisting serious security constraints. The completion of horizontal engineering works at the Gao, Kidal, Tessalit and Timbuktu integrated camps in January enabled the deployment of additional military and police capacity into northern Mali, notably the relocation of one infantry battalion from Dyabali (Segou region) to Gao. All main camp locations and the majority of minor sites are already occupied to some degree, and additional personnel are moving in as office and accommodation space are constructed. Contractual arrangements for work at six integrated and seven military camps are now in place; three additional contracts are to be awarded by the end of March. In Bamako, the construction of the new Mission headquarters is progressing at the site near the airport; it is expected that MINUSMA staff will relocate to the new site late in 2015.

55. Although the Mission completed the extension of the Kidal and Tessalit runways late in December, expanding payload capacity to those destinations, the security incidents described in section III above resulted in the closure of both airstrips for repairs. On 19 January, the Tessalit airstrip reopened for emergency response and limited operations pending finalization of bunker construction. The inaccessibility of the Kidal airstrip from 21 January to 16 February and persistent security threats to road convoys delayed the construction of infrastructure necessary for the deployment of the medium-sized military utility helicopter unit, initially planned in March and now postponed to mid-May.

56. The Mission continued to implement its counter-improvised explosive device programme. From 17 December to 8 March, the two explosive ordnance disposal and route verification companies conducted 93 missions in support of convoy movements, daily road clearance tasks, and post-blast investigations, as well as to neutralize improvised explosive devices and remove unexploded ordnance. The Mine Action Service delivered courses on improvised explosive device safety response to 859 military personnel, as well as training in the use of individual first aid kits to 856 others. Other measures implemented include training of incoming military explosive ordnance disposal companies; the transfer of seven mine-protected vehicles to contingents in the north; and preparations for the pre-deployment training of infantry companies. In addition to Mine Action Service mentors embedded with the eight MINUSMA explosive ordnance disposal teams in Kidal, the Mission is still seeking in-kind mentors to coach troops on asymmetric attack risk mitigation.

57. In the light of the significant changes to the political and security operational environment in Mali since the establishment of the Mission's plans in 2013, MINUSMA is undertaking a review of its mission concept and the concepts of operations of related components with a view to ensuring that the Mission identifies and focuses on a limited set of key political and stabilization priorities through an integrated effort.

IX. Observations

58. Mali is today at a turning point. After eight months of internationally facilitated talks, a draft peace agreement is now before the parties. If an agreement is reached, it could pave the way for an end to armed conflict and the start of sustainable reconciliation, reform and development in the north and elsewhere in Mali. The stakes are high. Violence is intensifying in and spreading beyond northern Mali, affecting the safety and security of civilians and the protection of their human rights, and preventing their access to education, health and other basic services. Violent extremism, organized crime and illicit trafficking thrive in such conditions and, if unchecked, threaten the very future of the Malian State. There is no military solution to these threats; they can be effectively countered only through a viable political process that yields implementable results. The people of Mali deserve no less.

59. The unprecedented level of engagement of the international community in support of peace reflects the seriousness of Mali's situation, and the strong commitment of the international community to the country, its people and the region. Ultimately, however, the decision to pursue peace is a Malian one. Without the determined will of the Malian parties and their constituencies to reach a final political settlement and to make the compromises necessary for peace to take root, the impact of international efforts will remain, at best, limited.

60. A negotiated agreement is a precondition for progress towards peace. However, it is only the first step in a long journey towards peace, security, reconciliation and development, a journey which calls for continuing dialogue. The draft agreement currently before the Malian parties provides a framework for such a sustained dialogue. It captures many of the political, institutional, security and development issues at stake and provides the basis for their negotiated resolution during the critical implementation phase. I urge the Malian parties to seize this historical opportunity and thereby take ownership of their future.

61. I congratulate the Algerian lead mediator and all mediation team members for their dedicated efforts in support of a negotiated settlement. If the Malian parties are prepared to commit themselves to an agreement, the international community has undertaken to act as its guarantor and to actively support its implementation. It is critical that Mali's partners maintain the unity that they have shown to date and, as dialogue continues, begin to put in place the implementation and support mechanisms, including financial, that will be required to ensure a viable peace.

62. Inevitably, there is a deficit of trust between the Malian parties. Communities are polarized. Spoilers, including violent extremists, will seek to maintain unfettered access for illicit trafficking in northern Mali, preying upon civilians. Clear and robust implementation mechanisms can contribute to building mutual trust and confidence in the prospects for peace and to helping to resolve the differences that will inevitably emerge as long-standing issues are practically addressed. The United Nations stands ready to continue playing its role in supporting dialogue and, if successful, the implementation of an agreed peace. My Special Representative and MINUSMA remain committed to providing good offices, assisting national reconciliation and supporting the establishment of defence and security provisions of an agreement.

63. While political progress was being made in Algiers, all parties regrettably continued to violate the ceasefire on the ground, including in the Ifoghas Valley and in Ber late in December 2014 and in January 2015. I call on all parties to refrain from any further military actions that could jeopardize the success of the peace process in this delicate phase, and to abide by their ceasefire commitments by participating in and supporting the activities of the ceasefire management bodies, the joint observation and verification teams and the Mixed Technical Commission on Security.

64. I remain highly concerned at the potential for intercommunal violence and the manipulation of public sentiment at this sensitive moment in the peace process. All Malian parties have a responsibility to communicate with their constituencies and to address legitimate grievances and concerns in a peaceful manner. They also have an obligation not to misrepresent the role of MINUSMA. The violent demonstration against a MINUSMA camp that resulted in the death and injury of protestors on 27 January in Gao is of serious concern. I am committed to shedding full light on the events surrounding that terrible incident and to determine the role and responsibilities of the United Nations. The independent inquiry I established for this purpose will conclude its work at the end of March.

65. I condemn in the strongest terms continuing attacks on United Nations personnel and civilians and call on the Government of Mali to swiftly investigate these attacks, which may constitute war crimes under international law. I am profoundly saddened by each and every death and injury and take this opportunity to express my deepest condolences to the families of the victims of these heinous crimes as well as to the Government of Mali and the Governments of the countries of the United Nations peacekeepers who lost their lives in the line of duty. The terrorist attack in Bamako on 8 March, as well as the asymmetric attacks against Government forces south of the Niger bend, provided stark reminders that insecurity is not confined to the far north of Mali.

66. The French Operation Barkhane has continued to provide in extremis support to MINUSMA throughout this period, including for the medical evacuation of injured United Nations peacekeepers. I am grateful for this continuing support, which is provided within the distinct mandate of each entity.

67. Continuing violence, particularly banditry and extremist activity, is severely hampering the delivery of humanitarian assistance to communities and individuals in greatest need. I call on all parties to contribute to the creation of a secure environment for humanitarian access. I further encourage international partners to contribute generously to the 2015 Humanitarian Strategic Response Plan, half of which is directed towards addressing the emergency needs of conflict-affected people in northern and central Mali.

68. The peace process must urgently translate into tangible gains for the people of Mali. While the re-establishment of public services in the far north requires coordination between the parties, ideally through the implementation of a peace agreement, I encourage the Government to already deploy security forces and civil servants, including teachers and health personnel, in the areas under its control. This would send a positive signal to the populations north of the Niger River that the central authority is committed to meeting its responsibilities and to providing the same level of services to all Malian citizens.

69. MINUSMA operates in some of the most austere and hostile environments known to peacekeeping. United Nations peacekeepers remain the sole regular force with a constant presence throughout northern Mali and as such are the primary target of violent extremist group attacks. This comes inevitably at high human and financial cost. I welcome the exhaustive array of security measures being implemented by the Mission in the wake of the informal interactive dialogue on Mali held by the Security Council in November 2014. I remain committed to identifying and implementing further innovative measures to ensure the implementation of the MINUSMA mandate while enhancing protection. I encourage all troop- and police-contributing countries and all bilateral donors to continue their efforts to ensure that the adequate number of personnel deploy with the capabilities necessary to operate in this exceedingly challenging environment.

70. Lastly, I wish to express my appreciation to Mr. Mongi Hamdi, my Special Representative for Mali, and to all United Nations civilian and uniformed personnel in Mali, for their continuing hard work in very difficult conditions to restore lasting peace and stability in the country. I would also like to thank all troop- and police-contributing countries, the African Union, ECOWAS, the European Union and bilateral partners, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, non-governmental organizations and all other partners for their important contributions in support of the peace process in Mali.